

## Texas Baptists Call Uncle Sam A "Meddling Intruder"

BROWNWOOD, Tex. (BP) — Uncle Sam has forsaken the role of a helpful relative and become instead a demanding, meddling intruder causing increasing trouble for Texas Baptist institutions.

That picture emerged from reports made at the semi-annual meeting of the Inter-Agency Council — organization of Texas Baptist educational and human welfare institutions — at Howard Payne University.

Council members said that regulatory agencies of the federal government are making their operations difficult by: financial domination through government rate regulation; requests for photo copies of all records for periods of time based on alleged discrimination; bureaucratic interpretation of laws; demands for immediate compliance to voluminous, complex regulations.

Phil Strickland of Dallas, an associate director of the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission, told the council that power tends to beget power. And the power in the United States, he added, is not in the Congress but in the regulatory institutions of the

nation. Abner McCall, president of Baylor University, Waco, Tex., said government control is no longer dependent upon whether an institution accepts government aid.

"The government has made it very clear that whether we get federal aid or not, we're going to get federal control," said the president of the Southern Baptist school.

Texas Baptist Executive Director James H. Landes, chairman of the council, said Baptists have properly been concerned about the legislative process. Now there is increasing concern for the convention's institutions in the administrative process of requirements imposed by federal regulatory bodies, he added.

Administrators of the hospitals and schools said they will continue to study the problems at meetings of their separate groups and seek to present some recommendations to the Feb. 4 meeting of the Inter-Agency Council.

They also suggested that Texas Baptists be informed of the threats to their institutions in order that they can help combat the problems.

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## MBCB Re-Elects Triggs, Kelly Asks For Associational Strengthening

Gene Triggs, Yazoo City layman, was re-elected president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and Rev. James Hurt, pastor of Immanuel Church, Cleveland, was elected chairman of the board's Executive Committee last week during the organization meeting of the two bodies following the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Each year the Convention Board and the Executive Committee meet in a post-convention session to reorganize following the rotation of some mem-

bers off the board and the election of new board members by the convention.

Dr. John Lee Taylor, pastor of First Church, Grenada, was elected vice-president of the Convention Board; and Rev. Tom Hudson, pastor of Oak Forest Church, Jackson, was named secretary.

For the Executive Committee, Dr. R. Raymond Lloyd, pastor of First Baptist Church, Starkville, was elected vice-chairman; and Mrs. Larry Otis of Tupelo was elected secretary. Mrs. Otis is the first woman to serve on the Executive Committee.

During the Convention Board meeting members heard a report from the Christian Education Commission, delivered by its chairman, Dr. Joe Tuten, pastor of Calvary Church, Jackson. Board members adopted the commission's recommendation concerning allocation of the \$1,512,000 from the 1977 Cooperative Program budget to go to the four colleges. The report calls for 50 percent being used for administration, 40 percent going for instruction, and 10 percent being used for special purposes. The 10 percent would be divided with 6.5 percent going for ministerial student enrollment, 3 percent for nursing education, and one-half of 1 percent for support of the commission.

From those percentages a formula was adopted for the allocation to the colleges according to their enrollments. It was reported that as of Oct. 1 the head count enrollment figures show Blue Mountain with 288 students, Clarke with 186 students, Mississippi College with 3,049, and William Carey with 1,984.

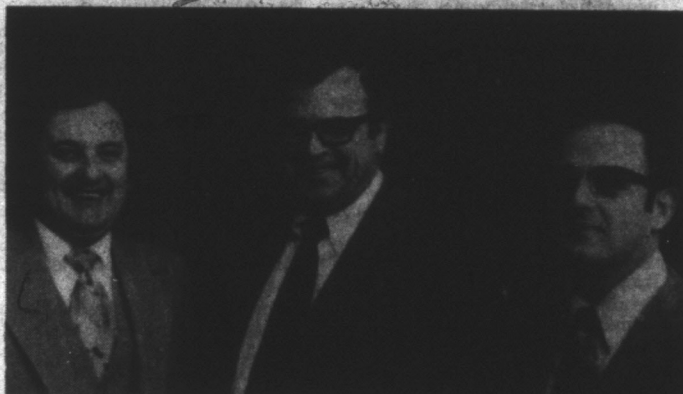
Of the 435 ministerial students enrolled at the four colleges, Blue Mountain has 64, Clarke has 48, Mississippi College has 151, and William Carey has 182.

Two colleges have nursing programs. Mississippi College has 188 students, and William Carey has 271.

A five-year capital fund program for the colleges is in its second year with a \$300,000 per year allocation. Percentage-wise, this is to be divided with 13.4 percent for Blue Mountain, 12.4 percent for Clarke, 45.85 percent for Mississippi College, and 28.35 percent for William Carey.

Dr. Robert Hamblin, president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention and pastor of Harrisburg Church, Tupelo, presented devotional thoughts to open the board meeting. He told the

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Gene Triggs, Yazoo City layman, who was re-elected president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, is shown above center. The new vice-president is Dr. John Lee Taylor, left, pastor of First Baptist Church, Grenada; and the new secretary is Rev. Tom Hudson, right, pastor of Oak Forest Church, Jackson.

## Two Soviet Baptists Oppose U. S. Pressure On Russians

By Michael Deduit  
LOUISVILLE (BP) — Two Russian Baptist leaders do not believe that American pressure on the Soviet government is necessary to bring more religious freedom to their country.

Michael Zhidkov and Alexei Bichkov made their statements during a visit to the campus of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here. Zhidkov, senior pastor of Moscow Baptist Church, is a vice president of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA), and Bichkov currently serves as president

of the European Baptist Federation and as general secretary of the All-Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists (AUECB).

Zhidkov indicated that Georgi Vins, a Russian Baptist pastor currently serving a prison sentence of five years hard labor, was jailed because of his refusal to register his church with the Soviet government rather than for normal religious activities.

"Georgi Vins' church in Kiev is registering itself and now functions officially," he said in an interview here.

General secretary of the World Council of Churches of Evangelical Christians-Baptists (CCECB), has been the subject of much debate in the United States, including a Congressional resolution demanding his release. The two Russian Baptists, whose churches are registered with the state, believe this type of action is unnecessary and may prove counterproductive.

"Imagine some tension exists in one family," Bichkov illustrated, "and a neighbor wants to come in and give advice. Then the tension begins to go away, but the advisor insists on coming in anyway, and sometimes makes the situation worse than before."

Instead of pressure tactics, their philosophy is "to knock at the door of the state without noise — politely but constantly," Zhidkov said.

"We agree with the policy of the Baptist World Alliance, that we use the method of personal approach to governments. We stand for the rights of believers in this way, not in passing resolutions, protesting loudly and so

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## A Brick And A Hug Are Gifts Of South Columbia Ministry

By Tim Nicholas  
There's a real Children's Church in Columbia, Miss.

Except for an adult women's Sunday School class, currently only children attend services at the South Columbia Baptist Mission Center.

The center, sponsored by Columbia's First Baptist Church, is operating a weekday ministries program. Directed by Mark and Catherine Maddux, the center has children's clubs, a teen club, a mothers' club, and a bi-monthly clothing room, besides holding Sunday afternoon Bible classes for kids from cradle through teens.

The Madduxes came this past summer as newlywed student summer missionaries. They were married in May and began work in June. At the end of summer, George Lee, associational missions director, asked them to stay on and transfer to nearby colleges.

The infant ministry was losing its directors Mayson and Mary Easterling, who transferred to another state and Lee wanted to continue into the winter with a part time program. Lee is also chairman of the church's missions committee.

With financial backing from the church, the association and the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Cooperative Missions Department, the Madduxes stayed. Both from Marion, Ind., they had been students at Campbellsville College in Campbellsville, Ky., Mark, a religious

education major, transferred to William Carey College, and Catherine, an art major, will enter University of Southern Mississippi in the spring.

Active in the ministry are several women who are members of First Baptist. Lee's wife, Margaret leads the older girls during the Wednesday afternoon children's club.

Two other key figures in the program are Adelia Wilkins and Kathleen Barnes who work with the mothers club and the clothing room at the center.

"Madge Gill (an FBC member) leads the devotionals and we have refreshments and craft time," says Mrs. Wilkins.

"We had nine mothers here last week, and sometimes have as many as 20-something," says Mrs. Wilkins, who has been with the program since January. "I make cakes and Mrs. Barnes makes sandwiches," she says. "Most don't have transportation, so this may be the only social life some have," she adds.

Both teach classes at the 4:30 p.m. sessions each Sunday, using mostly bus ministry materials.

The clothing, which comes from churches association-wide, is shipped by 30 women on the average.

The teenagers, led by the Madduxes, are "going through the Book of John," says Catherine. "Also we go over to the FBC youth house for recreation and to watch TV together. We take them to special events such as Christian con-

certs."

Right now Mark, Catherine and Margaret Lee are visiting the homes of all the kids enrolled in the clubs, inviting them and their parents to a special Christmas dinner Dec. 12. The Woman's Missionary Union of First Baptist "are going all out for the dinner," says Catherine. Dr. J. Roy McComb, new pastor of the church, will speak at the dinner.

"Last year we just sent out invitations and the kids brought aunts and uncles, nephews and nieces. People came from everywhere. This year, it's just for the kids and their parents," says Catherine.

Then Dec. 19, the kids will have a Jesus Birthday party. "Mark's family has a tradition of gathering friends together on Christmas eve. They read the Christmas story and sing happy birthday to Jesus and eat birthday cake," says Catherine. "We'll do that and have a special slide presentation on the real meaning of Christmas and give the kids a stocking with fruit, nuts and candy."

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## Southern Baptists Aid Victims Of Mexico And Turkey Disasters

### Earthquake

VAN, Turkey (BP) — The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has released \$10,000 of world relief funds to aid victims of the Nov. 24 earthquake here.

Clothing, food and tents are being distributed to survivors of the quake which registered 7.6 on the Richter Scale and left at least 3,600 dead, according to news reports immediately following the disaster. Thousands were homeless in driving snow and 10 degree temperatures.

The board received a call on Nov. 26 from Rupert Coleman, interim pastor of Galatian Baptist Church, an English-language church in Ankara. Money was immediately authorized by Baker J. Cauthen, executive director of the board, and released by Everett L. Deane, treasurer of the board.

"This is our immediate contribution toward the emergency," said J. D. Hughey, the board's area secretary for the Middle East. "Other needs will be considered later."

W. L. (Wimpy) Smith, associate consultant for laymen overseas and disaster response, has been in contact with the U. S. State Department offices of disaster response. The U. S. government is also responding with financial aid.

Turkish officials say that everyone has temporary shelter now, but some of the homeless are housed three families per tent. Helicopters have been hampered in rescue operations in remote villages by heavy snow and low visibility.

The Foreign Mission Board and Coleman will continue to work with the American Embassy and the Turkish government to determine the best methods of distribution of relief supplies. Coleman has been serving as interim pastor of the Ankara church while Southern Baptist missionary pastor, James F. (Jim) Leeper, is on furlough. Coleman is a former member of the Foreign Mission Board's trustees and retired pastor of Southside Baptist Church, Lakeland, Fla.

### Hurricane

LA PAZ, Mexico (BP) — When the winds and damaging floods of Hurricane Liza hit in early October, they left about 500 dead, 500 missing, 1,400 injured and 15,000 or more homeless here and in other parts of Mexico.

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mis-



A La Paz, Mexico, child cools off in a bucket of water while others survey damage done when floods from Hurricane Liza swept through her neighborhood. (BP photo by Dr. Lee Baggett)

sion Board appropriated \$41,000 for relief efforts to assist the stricken hurricane victims.

Part of the money was used for heavy plastic and corrugated tarp paper for shelter for over 1,000 families in La Paz, Los Mochis and Navajon. The materials were distributed by Baptist church members to those most affected by the storm.

Ninety-eight blocks of homes were swept away in La Paz when a river diversion dike broke spilling a 17-foot wall of water on the city, according to Dr. Lee Baggett, Southern Baptist representative physician.

Baggett, along with Mexican Baptist doctors Yolanda Lobato, physician, and Gloria Rodriguez, dentist, composed a medical team from the Baptist hospital in Guadalajara. They survived needs and administered medical aid in La Paz and the remote southern tip of the Baja Peninsula by invitation of the Mexican public health officials.

On a five-day trip across the desert south of La Paz, the team worked in 14 villages and towns and treated 256 patients, including 25 dental patients, according to Robert L. Perry, Southern Baptist press representative in Mexico.

A Baptist layman, Jose Crespo, served as their guide to the villages. Most of the patients seen, Baggett said, had respiratory infections, diarrhea, skin infections, parasitosis

or heart disease.

"In Las Cuevas," Baggett said, "an unusually dry river had crested six to seven feet deep through the town, emptying houses in exchange for several feet of silt. In La Rivera an entire fishing fleet was destroyed in the surf."

Immediately after the disaster in La Paz, Francisco Marin, a Baptist layman, began providing 220 pounds of tortillas daily from his factory.

"When Southern Baptists decided that relief funds from the board could best be used to buy food, Marin's contacts became invaluable," Baggett continued.

Relief funds were also used to provide heavy plastic for shelter for some

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## Deacons Serve Church Not Run, Says Deacon

By Tim Nicholas  
A Morgan Bryan, Jr., guest speaker at the Mississippi State Conference for pastors, staffs, deacons and wives, called for an end to "boards" of deacons.

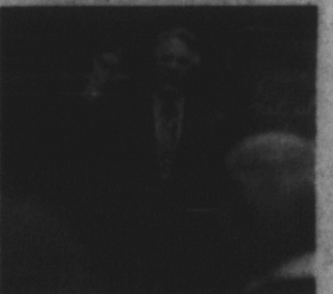
"Board" means control, said the New Orleans attorney and Baptist layman. "Let's just call ourselves a body of deacons. It's the pastor who's supposed to be the authority in the church," said Brian, a deacon at New Orleans First Baptist Church.

The pastor is shepherd of the flock; the deacon is servant of the flock," he said to the 175 persons attending the conference at William Carey College in Hattiesburg.

Sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's office of church administration, the conference dealt heavily with the expanding role of the deacon in the church's ministry.

Bill Hogue, director of the Home Mission Board's Evangelism Section explained that the pastor alone cannot possibly handle the needs of a church's inactive members, but along with deacons, he can.

Hogue told of a former pastor in Odessa, Tex., where the deacons offered to begin prayer in the pastor's study during morning services, half taking time about during two services. "I don't remember when they stopped doing it," recalled Hogue, "but there wasn't one service where the deacons were praying that there wasn't some invitational response, either for profession of faith or rededication, or a related response."



Brian

Hogue said one couple came forward and they told him that, "We have discovered something beautiful in this church and we want to be a part of it."

Howard Foshee, secretary of the Baptist Sunday School Board's Church Administration Department, reviewed the American history of the deacon. "As Baptists began to move west, there weren't enough pastors to go around and the only officers of the church were the pastor and the deacon." Then, deacons were more directly involved in ministry, he said.

"A few years ago deacons began to ask if there were something else to do besides working with buildings and money," said Foshee.

"Let's put aside financial management and boards of control and turn back to that fellowship in the Scriptures," he said.

Brian explained what he believes to

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Catherine Maddux hosts her crayon while the girls make mottled-crayon pictures at craft time at the South Columbia Baptist Mission Center which Catherine and her husband Mark direct.

## CT Announces Bible Drill Clinics For S. Mississippi

The Church Training Department announces the schedule of Children's Bible Drill Clinics for South Mississippi. These clinics will be held in eight locations on December 13 and 14.

The purpose of these clinics will be to instruct representatives from churches in how to recruit and train children to participate in the drills.

Children's Bible Drill is a Church Training activity which develops ability to handle the Bible, to quickly find books and passages in the Bible, and memorization of selected scripture.

Clinic directors will be: Vivian Reaves, Children's Director, Broad-

moor, Jackson; Helen Kennedy, Tennessee Church Training Department; Bill Hardy, minister of education, First, Columbus; and Lillian Walters, children's worker, Hillcrest, Jackson.

Locations, dates, and clinic directors for each are: Monday, December 13, Ocean Springs, First (Reaves); Plainway, Laurel (Kennedy); Prentiss, Prentiss, (Hardy); and Tyler-town, Tyler-town (Walters).

On Tuesday, December 14, clinics will be held at: Leakeville, First (Reaves); 28th Avenue, Hattiesburg (Kennedy); Brookhaven, First (Hardy); and Liberty, Liberty (Walters).



## 5,000 Alabama Baptists Hold Historic Joint Convention

BIRMINGHAM (BP) — Mixing politics and religion, more than 5,000 Alabama Baptists, both black and white and representing five different conventions and 1.3 million members — came together for an historic joint meeting to observe a special U. S. Bicentennial session at the Birmingham Jefferson Civic Center here.

Billed as a "festival of freedom" the program featured a mass chorus of 1,500 voices, a patriotic paean of praise, a sermon by a black Baptist pastor from New York, and a Bicentennial address by Oklahoma Governor David Boren.

Alabama Governor George C. Wallace also made a guest appearance, and earlier in the annual meeting of the Alabama Baptist Convention, U. S. Rep. John Buchanan (R-Ala.), a former Southern Baptist minister, urged all churches to open their doors to all men regardless of race, creed or color.

Buchanan, congressman of Alabama's sixth district, told the Baptists that President-elect Jimmy Carter's first test of leadership came on Sunday, Nov. 14, in the Plains Baptist Church.

"There they struggled in a three hour meeting for the right decision" on whether to open their church to blacks, Buchanan said. "How I thank God for the right decision" to end racial discrimination, he said. "Shall John Buchanan or any other individuals deny the right to worship for any person for whom Christ died?" Buchanan asked. "God forbid."

The congressman said he believed Carter to be "a born again believer in Jesus Christ," and he urged the Baptists to "pray that he will be God's man." Buchanan also urged the Baptists to reach out and join hands with those about you.

Gardner Taylor, of Brooklyn, the first black and the first Baptist to be elected president of the New York City Council of Churches, told the joint session that two enormous ills — greed and racism — stand in the way of Christians making the nation's 200 year old promise of freedom and opportunity a reality.

Taylor, pastor of Concord Baptist Church of Christ, without mentioning either man by name, spoke of Martin Luther King, a black Baptist born in Georgia in 1929, and Jimmy Carter, a white Baptist born in Georgia in 1925, and how the "hand of God made it possible" for the first Southerner to be elected President since 1849.

Taylor spoke of the circumstances King went through to achieve his goals, which also liberated Carter to become President. He spoke of how they "found each other's hand and heart."

The South's patriotism has been known everywhere, Taylor declared, but he said "an albatross" has hung around the neck of a person from the South wanting to be President.

"We face a new day," Taylor noted, "a new hope and a new birth of freedom. The challenge," he declared, "is to determine that the last vestige of our dark night, going back to the Civil War, is behind us."

Gov. Wallace, a surprise addition to the program, received a standing ovation when he was introduced. He said the greatest need of the U. S. is "spiritual revolution or revival which ever you call it. The Bible belt is in an ascendancy and the old fashioned values of moral goodness, which were practiced a hundred years ago, have come back in vogue," he explained. Wallace said there is a yearning for the

"fundamental Christianity" which Baptists espouse.

In other action, the Alabama Baptist Convention passed a resolution for prayer and support of President-elect Carter, re-elected Dan Ireland, pastor of Jackson Way Baptist Church, Huntsville, Ala., as president; and voted a \$13.3 million annual budget. Thirty five and a half percent of the state's Cooperative Program budget will go to worldwide Southern Baptist missions.

The convention also adopted resolutions opposing violence on television, pornography and alcohol abuses and resolved to support observance of the Lord's Day.

The 1977 convention is set, Nov. 15-17, at the Civic Center, Montgomery, Ala.

## Northern Plains Baptists Celebrate First 25 Years

CASPER, Wyo. (BP) — Southern Baptists of the Northern Plains, celebrating 25 years of work in the four-state area, inaugurated a new executive director-treasurer and a new Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) executive director, and voted a \$594,734 budget in annual session here.

### D. C. Baptists Invite Carter To Conference

WASHINGTON (BP) — The District of Columbia Baptist Convention voted to invite President-elect Jimmy Carter to address its centennial celebration, Nov. 10-11, 1977, at Calvary Baptist Church in Washington, D. C. The dually-aligned D. C. Convention was organized in 1877 at Calvary Church. Rosalynn Carter, wife of the U. S. President-elect, will be invited to speak to the annual meeting of Baptist Women, missionary organization, according to convention action.

Delegates also voted to remember President-elect Carter "in both our private and public prayers asking God to give him the moral courage, the spiritual vision and the physical strength to lead our nation."

In further action, delegates adopted a budget of \$602,731. In 1975-76, the D. C. Convention gave 41.5 percent of the receipts from its churches to national and international missions with the greater part going to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC). The D. C. convention is dually aligned with the SBC and American Baptist Churches in the USA, Inc.

Harold W. Sorrell Jr., pastor of Clinton Baptist Church, Clinton, Md., was elected convention president.

Delegates referred a proposed resolution from the floor opposing school busing of children to a committee. The convention last year approved a resolution in favor of "a reasonable amount of busing" to achieve quality education and improved racial attitudes.

## Churches Ordaining Women Allowed Seats In Illinois

MARION, Ill. (BP) — "Messengers" to the Illinois Baptist State Association (IBSA) here declined to deny seating to churches that ordain women, adopted a \$2.3 million Cooperative Program unified budget goal for 1977, and approved a special \$1 million fund-raising campaign as "seed money for new churches."

Messengers also refused to restrict IBSA meetings only to facilities which do not sell alcoholic beverages but they reaffirmed their opposition to use of liquor.

The IBSA also passed a resolution calling for concerted prayer by all denominational bodies in Illinois and heard a report that 99 Baptist churches and missions were begun in Illinois in the past 43 months.

A motion to deny seating to churches that ordain women was ruled out of order by outgoing IBSA President Wendell Garrison on grounds that the state convention's constitution does not recognize such practices as a test of fellowship, a spokesman said.

The motion, made by Archie Grigg, a pastor from Decatur, Ill., came after the convention's resolution committee failed to speak on the practice of ordaining women as deacons and ministers. Garrison's decision was sustained by a majority of the messengers.

Keith Stanford of Granite City, Ill., was elected president. Stanford, director of missions for Madison County Baptist Association, had just completed two years as the convention's vice president. As convention president he will serve as chairman of the IBSA board of directors.

The \$2.3 million Cooperative Program goal is a 13 percent increase over the 1975 goal, which, in turn, was a 20 percent increase over 1975. Forty-one percent of the Cooperative Program will go to the Southern Baptist Convention's worldwide mission causes, a one percent increase.

The IBSA's total anticipated receipts for 1977 will be almost \$4 million, including Cooperative Program gifts.

The \$1 million special campaign to raise "seed money" for new congregations will help undergird the Illinois phase of the North Central Mission Thrust, a cooperative effort to double Southern Baptist work in seven Great Lakes area states.

## N. C. Baptists Are "A Little Quieter"

FAYETTEVILLE, N. C. (BP) — The North Carolina convention session was a "little quieter this year." And it was. In fact, veteran observers couldn't remember when there had been a more harmonious session. Even with the peaceful atmosphere, registration was 3,327, considerably more than at last year's convention at Asheville, which elected Cecil A. Ray as general secretary-treasurer.

A \$12 million budget, plus another \$1 million challenge goal, was approved with no debate. One-third of it will go to the Southern Baptist Convention's worldwide missions causes.

Coy C. Privette of Kannapolis, N. C., was re-elected president. A woman, Mrs. A. LeRoy Parker of Greensboro, was re-elected second vice president. She is the second woman in North Carolina Baptist history to serve as one of the top officers.

Messengers also sent a wire to Jimmy Carter pledging prayers.

## Newsbriefs In The World Of Religion



WASHINGTON, D.C. (RNS) — The number of legal abortions performed on women in Washington, D. C. last year exceeded the number of resident births for the first time in history, according to new government statistics. Figures compiled by the District of Columbia Department of Human Resources shows that 9,819 abortions were performed last year on resident women compared with 9,746 resident births. The report indicated that about 85 per cent of the abortions were paid for by the government. Some 7,400 were paid for by Medicaid and about 1,060 were performed free at D. C. General, the city's free hospital.

London (RNS) — The world's largest floating "book fair" has returned to London after a five-year round the world trip as an interdenominational missionary ship selling Christian literature. During its world trip the Logos, which has a volunteer crew of 140 from 26 different countries, was personally welcomed by such heads of state like President Marcos of the Philippines and the late Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia. Altogether, the vessel had more than 2 million visitors and the crew distributed 16 million pieces of educational and religious literature in 155 ports.

Canby, Ore. (EP) — The New Life Testament, a special translation by Gleason H. Ledyard of Christian Literature International, is helping new readers and those using English as a second language, to comprehend God's Word. Now circulated worldwide, New Life Testaments have an 850-word vocabulary, making them adaptable for newly literates abroad and for penal institutions where the reading level of inmates is far below average.

New York (RNS) — In response to the devastating earthquake that hit Eastern Turkey Nov. 24 and took an estimated 3,000 lives, Catholic Relief Services here ordered a shipment of 170,000 pounds of warm clothing already aboard a ship in the Mediterranean Sea diverted to the stricken country.

Providence, R. I. (RNS) — In what may be an unprecedented move, a few Episcopal Church candidates for the diocese will join some 25 Roman Catholic laymen in a two-and-a-half year training program for the permanent diaconate starting next Spring — but women applicants, Episcopal or Catholic, are not being accepted.

Ottawa (RNS) — Comprehensive legislation outlawing religious, racial and sex discrimination is being prepared by the Canadian federal government and is likely to become law within a few months.

Minneapolis (RNS) — Pastors serving congregations in the American Lutheran Church received average salary increases of more than \$1,000 in 1976, according to an ALC report. The average salary rose from \$13,160 in 1975 to \$14,187 in 1976, the median from \$12,808 to \$13,928. The figures include a 25 per cent housing allowance.

Indianapolis (RNS) — As the Indiana General Assembly prepares to consider another proposal to legalize betting on horse races early next year, a prominent church leader is gathering information to be used in his battle against "crime" and "sin," which he says, can take the form of legalized betting. Grover L. Hartman, executive secretary of the Indiana Council of Churches, said his material will stress both the possible increase in crime and the immorality of such gambling.

Austin, Tex. (EP) — Madalyn Murray O'Hair, self-styled "Madonna Madalyn" of the American Atheist Church, has announced that Thursday is to be the sabbath day of American atheists. Ms. O'Hair declared that atheists should demand of their employers that work schedules be arranged so they can celebrate the sabbath on Thursdays.

New York (RNS) — The United Methodist Board of Global Ministries may reconsider plans to hold Spring meetings in Atlantic City, N. J., because of the recent vote supporting casino gambling there.

## Northwest Baptists Elect Canadian President

PORTLAND (BP) — The Northwest Baptist Convention, in annual session here, sent a telegram to President-elect Jimmy Carter commending him and urging him to use his influence to encourage Baptist bodies to avoid restricting membership on the basis of race or national background.

In other action, the convention's "messengers" also elected a Canadian pastor as president, refused to seat messengers from a church accepting "alien immersion," voted their first \$1 million annual budget, and received a report that their outgoing convention president will become editor of the convention's news publication.

The telegram to Carter, apparently prompted by the earlier refusals of the Plains (Ga.) Baptist Church to allow a black minister to attend services, was approved and sent before the Plains Church voted on Sunday, Nov. 14, to end racial discrimination.

The election of the Canadian pastor, Allen E. Schmidt of Royal Heights Baptist Church, Delta, British Columbia, as president, to succeed William O. (Bill) Crews of Portland, raises an

interesting point of Baptist polity, a spokesman said.

Under Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) rules Schmidt, although pastor of a church affiliated with the Northwest Baptist Convention, would not be eligible to serve as an elected messenger to annual, national SBC sessions because his church is outside U. S. borders. The Northwest Convention, which covers Southern Baptist work in Oregon, Washington and northern Idaho, has also allowed some 25 churches in the four westernmost provinces of Canada to affiliate.

The convention also named another Canadian pastor, Bo Brantley of Victoria Baptist Church, Victoria, British Columbia, to preach the convention sermon at its 1977 meeting, Nov. 8-10, Spokane, Wash.

After debate, Northwest Convention messengers, for the second consecutive year, refused to seat messengers from First Baptist Church, Bothell, Wash., because the church cannot agree with the convention's statement of faith, which disallows acceptance of baptisms from other denominations, the spokesman noted.

Later convention president Crews was asked to appoint a special committee to look at the convention's statement of faith and report back to next year's convention.

In passing their budget for 1977, the messengers approved a total budget of \$1,194,824, of which \$748,200 is expected from Northwest Convention churches through the state Cooperative Program unified budget. Twenty-seven percent of the Cooperative Program goal will go to worldwide causes of the SBC.

## Crews Elected Editor For Northwest

William O. (Bill) Crews, pastor of Metropolitan Baptist Church, Portland, will join the Northwest Baptist Convention staff, Jan. 1, succeeding C. E. Boyle as editor of the Northwest Baptist Witness and heading the Southern Baptist-affiliated convention's newly formed communications division.



Crews, 40, a native of Texas, has completed two terms as president of the convention. (BP) Photo

## W. Va. Baptists Pray For Carter, Plan Move

PARKERSBURG, W. Va. (BP) — Elected "messengers" to the West Virginia Convention of South Baptists urged prayer support for President-elect Jimmy Carter and other governmental leaders and approved plans to relocate the convention's state headquarters.

The convention also approved a \$603,679 total budget for 1977, including a goal of \$249,120 in Cooperative Program unified budget receipts from its churches, and elected Ron Dillon, pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Parkersburg, as president. Fifteen per-

cent of the Cooperative Program receipts will go to worldwide causes of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC).

Noting the "awesome responsibility of the office of President of the United States and the far reaching effects of what is decided in that office," the resolution urged prayer support for Carter and his advisors. It also urged Christian citizens to "do all that is within our power, under God, to help our President to uphold the spiritual and moral integrity of our nation and our world."

The convention confirmed an action of its executive board to purchase a 48-acre tract of land for the purpose of eventually moving the state headquarters some 25 miles from 801 Sixth Ave., St. Albans to the Elkview interchange of Interstate 76, in Charleston. The move will come in three to five years, a convention spokesman said.

The 1977 convention is set for Nov. 5-6, at Berkeley Baptist Church, Berkeley Springs, W. Va.

### Georgia Baptists Urge Openness In Church Life

AUGUSTA, Ga. (BP) — Georgia Baptists, meeting in the city where the Southern Baptist Convention was organized in 1845, pledged prayerful support to native son Jimmy Carter as the nation's new president and reaffirmed their commitment to the church being open to all persons.

The Georgia Baptist Convention also approved, without discussion, a lengthy statement reaffirming historic ties between the convention and its oldest institution, Mercer University in Macon.

That statement came from Mercer trustees, responding to a 1975 convention report calling for many steps to be taken to renew closer relationships between the university and Georgia Baptists.

Georgia Baptists also voted to initiate new ministries to mentally retarded persons and their families. The Georgia Baptist Children's Home was asked to consider starting group homes for mentally retarded people whose families cannot care for them.

### Michigan Convention Disapproves Hymn

SOUTH LYON, Mich. (BP) — The Baptist State Convention of Michigan, meeting here, celebrated 25 years of Southern Baptist work in the state and voted a record \$1,469,785 annual budget.

Elected "messengers" to the convention also passed a resolution expressing strong disapproval to the U. S. Armed Forces chaplains office regarding what they feel is erroneous doctrine in the hymn "Was On A Friday Morning," which appears in the Book of Worship for U. S. Forces.

They also resolved to pray for newly-elected local, state and national leaders and adopted long range goals, which included plans to communicate the gospel of Jesus Christ to every person in Michigan by 1990. A spokesman said there are some 6.5 million persons in the state who are connected with no church body.

In other action, messengers re-elected Richard Rogers, pastor of Bethany Baptist Church, Lansing, as convention president and approved a goal of \$664,847 in Cooperative Program receipts from Michigan Baptist churches as part of the total budget. Twenty-three percent of that goal will go to worldwide causes of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) through the national SBC Cooperative Program.



# U. S. Supreme Court Considers Death Penalty; Rules On Abortion, Privacy

By Stan L. Hestey

WASHINGTON (BP) — In an unexpected development, the U.S. Supreme Court announced it will decide whether states may apply mandatory death sentences to persons convicted of killing police officers.

In other actions, the high court upheld a lower ruling which overturned an Indiana abortion law, refused to disturb the conviction of a Virginia couple convicted of sodomy, and agreed to decide if an Alabama law discriminates against women in violation of the federal Civil Rights Act.

The court's surprise move to hear arguments on the constitutionality of death sentences for convicted murderers of policemen comes in the wake of its historic ruling in July striking down mandatory death sentences.

Last July 2, the high court declared that death penalty laws in Louisiana and North Carolina violated the U.S. Constitution's ban on cruel and unusual punishment by imposing mandatory death sentences which deprived both the presiding judge and the jury from taking into account such factors as previous criminal record, potential rehabilitation, or extenuating circumstances surrounding the killing.

At the same time, however, the justices upheld three other states' capital punishment laws, ruling that the death penalty does not, in and of itself, constitute cruel and unusual punishment.

The court will now decide whether the state of Louisiana may execute Harry Roberts, 21, the convicted murderer of a New Orleans police officer during the city's Mardi Gras celebration two years ago.

In its abortion action, the high court upheld a ruling by a federal district court in Indiana that the state's law requiring all first trimester abortions to be performed in hospitals is unconstitutional.

The lower court cited the high court's 1973 ruling that the state has no compelling interest in regulating abortion during the first three months of pregnancy. The decision to have an abortion during that period must be left to the woman and her physician, the court ruled.

Chief Justice Warren E. Burger and Associate Justices Byron R. White and William H. Rehnquist dissented, as they have done in most of the majority's abortion rulings over the past three years.

In the Virginia sodomy action, the justices declined to hear the appeal of a Virginia Beach couple who engaged in oral sex acts in the presence of a

third individual. The couple had argued that their subsequent conviction for sodomy, a crime in Virginia, violated their right to privacy.

A federal court of appeals had earlier disagreed with them, noting that they had voluntarily committed the illegal acts in the presence of an invited guest and had thereby forfeited any constitutional claim to privacy rights.

The justices did decide to hear the complaint of an Alabama woman who is challenging the state's law prescribing height and weight requirements for prison guards.

Diane Rawlings, 22, who at 5 feet 3 inches meets the height requirement but weighs five pounds less than the 120-pound minimum weight requirement, argues that such regulations violate the Civil Rights Act of 1964. She also contends the state's view that such physical requirements are bona fide occupational qualifications.

## Two Soviet Baptists Oppose U.S. Pressure On Russians

(Continued from page 1)

on," Zhidkov asserted.

As support for their method of action, the two Russian Baptists said the Soviet government plans to release a number of religious prisoners in the near future.

But opinion is divided, both on the part of Christians in and outside the USSR, about the benefit of outside pressure, observers point out.

The Mission Possible Foundation (MPF) of Washington, D. C., for example, which recently announced

the release of Boris Maximovich Zdobych, leader of an unregistered Baptist church who has been imprisoned for 13 years, cited his release as evidence that "public pressure in the West and within the USSR will not aggravate existing situations and in most cases will probably help to improve them."

MPF seeks to provide Bibles and Christian literature to believers in the Soviet Union.

In a recent editorial in the Baptist Standard, publication of the Texas Baptist Convention, editor John J. Hurt said, "No Soviet Baptist allowed to visit outside the Iron Curtain will speak factually about conditions in his own country."

"We must never accept any of their propaganda until there is evidence of freedom, including entry of gift Bibles," Hurt wrote.

The two Russian pastors disagreed with Hurt's assessment, claiming that the government's attitude toward religion has become more liberal than in past years.

"It's not as militant before," Zhidkov said.

As support for this position, the senior pastor said, "A new possibility has opened for us to import Bibles. With the help of the Baptist World Alliance, we were recently able to import some 1,000 Bibles and 20,000 hymn books."

C. Ronald Gauding, an associate secretary of the BWA and former general secretary of the European Baptist Federation, said in Washington that Baptists affiliated with the registered churches in the AUCECB are "happy as long as they are free to preach the gospel, make converts, baptize believers and develop the life and witness of the church, freedoms which they now enjoy throughout the USSR."

On the other hand, he said, Baptists affiliated with the dissident, unregistered churches in the CCECB "are not happy as long as they are not able to do anything their consciences demand, despite the laws of the country."

Zhidkov said in the Louisville interview that many members of the unregistered Baptist group believe the only true church is the persecuted church.

Gauding said that a number of CCECB churches are now becoming registered and enjoying the same freedoms as the AUCECB, although they usually cannot practice these freedoms unless their buildings have become registered.

## State Choral Festival Results Are Announced

More than 1,300 young people from 45 different churches participated in the recent district youth choral festival held in four different locations in the state. 33 of these groups or individuals received superior ratings from teams of adjudicators and were invited to participate in the State Youth Choral Festival held on December 4 at the Alta Woods Baptist Church in Jackson.

Invited to the State Festival were soloists Dayna Tadlock, Jackson; Lorin Walker, Jackson; Delilah Robinson, Maudslayi; and Melodie Monahan, Morton. Junior High choirs included were Broadmoor, Jackson;

Calvary, Jackson; Morrison Heights, Clinton. In the ensemble division were the Junior High and Senior High ensembles from Tate Street, Corinth; and ensembles from Broadmoor, Jackson; First, Gulfport; Morrison Heights, Clinton; Midway, Meridian; Temple, Hattiesburg; and Second Avenue, Laurel. High school and mixed choirs included First Baptist, Pascagoula; Broadmoor, Jackson; First, Clinton; Alta Woods, Jackson; Temple, Hattiesburg; First, Marks; Immanuel, Cleveland; New Hope, Meridian; Tate Street, Corinth; First, Quitman; First, Hattiesburg; First, Houston; First, Piquette; East McCumb, McCumb; Second Avenue, Laurel; First, Corinth; First, Hattiesburg; and First, Amory. Adjudicators for these festivals were ministers of music from outside the festival areas and college music faculty members.

Superior winners in the State Festival included soloists Dayna Tadlock, Jackson; Lorin Walker, Jackson; Delilah Robinson, Maudslayi; and Melodie Monahan, Morton. The Junior High Choir superior winner was Morrison Heights, Clinton. The ensemble superior winners included Broadmoor, Jackson; First, Gulfport; Morrison Heights, Clinton; Temple, Hattiesburg; and Second Avenue, Laurel. And the High School and mixed choirs receiving a superior rating included First, Marks; New Hope, Meridian; Tate Street, Corinth; First, Quitman; East McCumb, McCumb; Second Avenue, Laurel; First, Pascagoula; Broadmoor, Jackson; First, Clinton; Alta Woods, Jackson; and Temple, Hattiesburg.

## Homecoming

Belleview Baptist Church, Lamar Association, will observe its 26th Anniversary with Homecoming, Sunday, Dec. 12. Services will begin with Sunday School at 9:30 a.m., worship at 11 a.m., and a special afternoon service at 1:30 p.m.

Lunch will be served at the church. Former members, former pastors and former church staff are invited to attend. Rev. James Yates is pastor.

Thursday, December 9, 1976

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## MBCB Re-Elects Triggs

(Continued from page 1)

board members that "your denomination could never ask you to do anything that is beyond its privilege to ask." He said he would rather be a Southern Baptist than anything else and would rather be a Mississippi Baptist than any other kind. He challenged the members to "listen to the Holy Spirit and have the greatest year ever."

Dr. Hamblin had been elected a member of the Convention Board and became an ex officio member when he was elected president of the convention. The board elected Phlemon Ming, a layman of Rankin Association, to fill that vacancy.

Dr. Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the board, emphasized that board meetings and Executive Committee meetings are open to visitors. Continuing, he pointed out that in the 82 counties of the state there are 76 organized Baptist associations. Some of them transcend county lines, though most are organized on a county basis. "There are some pockets of strength and other pockets are extremely weak," he said. "At some point there will need to be a policy of consolidation and realignment."

He pointed out that the small association organizations were necessary in earlier days because of the problems

of transportation. This no longer a problem, and more attention needs to be given to strengthening the smaller programs, he indicated.

Dr. Kelly also noted that consideration at some point will need to be given to the method of electing board members. At this point the associations are making nominations for Convention Board members, yet the two bodies are independent of each other.

The three officers of the Convention Board serve also on the Executive Committee. In addition to those three and the three officers of the committee, the other members of the committee elected by the board were Hayes Callicott, Jackson; Rev. Paul Kirke, Pascagoula; Dr. Brooks Wester, Hattiesburg; Dr. P. A. Michel, Brookhaven; Dr. Russell Bush, Jr., Columbia; Rev. Jimmy McGee, McCumb; Rev. Reese E. Kyzar, Rolling Fork; Rev. Roy T. Myers, Independence; and Rev. Mel C. Craft, Tylertown.

Dr. Michel was elected chairman of the committee's Personal and Policy Committee, and Dr. Lloyd was named chairman of the Business Advisory Committee.

Committee chairmen for the Convention Board's committees are Rev. Lee Ferrell, Webb, Assembly and Camp Programs; Rev. Clark McMurray, Pascagoula, Budget and Cooperative Program Promotion; Rev. John Causey, Corinth, Church Minister Relations Advisory; Rev. Hurt, Missions and Evangelism; Callicott, New Church Expansion; and Rev. Craft, Pastor Church Building Aid.



The newly organized Executive Committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board is shown above. Chairman James Hurt is nearest the camera. Clockwise around the table are Roy Myers, Hayes Callicott, Mrs. Larry Olla, Jimmy McGee, Mel Craft, Brooks Wester, Raymond Lloyd, Russell Bush, P. A. Michel, Robert Hamblin, Reese Kyzar, and Earl Kelly. Standing at the back are the officers of the Convention Board. They are, left to right, Gene Triggs, John Lee Taylor, and Tom Hudson. Dr. Hamblin is president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, and Dr. Kelly is executive secretary-treasurer of the Convention Board. An Executive Committee member not present was Paul Kirke.

## A Brick And A Hug Are Gifts Of South Columbia Ministry

(Continued from page 1)

Mark, who attends FBC Monday morning staff meetings, says that a person couldn't visit only occasionally and expect to see changes in the lives of the kids who attend the center. "When you think you're doing nothing at all, just turning on the heat, they drop by just to be with you."

"We were cleaning up this past Saturday and a group of kids stopped by on their way to the store. One lagged behind and began to help with the cleaning. And a few minutes later the others came in to help," he says.

"This shows how much they appreciate what we do," he says. Catherine reports that one girl who has an especially quick temper, threw a brick at her, but fortunately missed. "We made Thanksgiving cards that day, listing on the cards the things we are thankful for," she says. The girl listed Catherine. "She gave me a hug later and her card which read 'I love you, Catherine.'"

Immediate plans for the center are to continue the part time winter program. Mark is considering working full time next summer, rather than graduate and enter seminary immediately. "Part of me says the mission needs me more. It's easier for the kids to get into trouble in the summer and Catherine and I can be with them every day," he says.

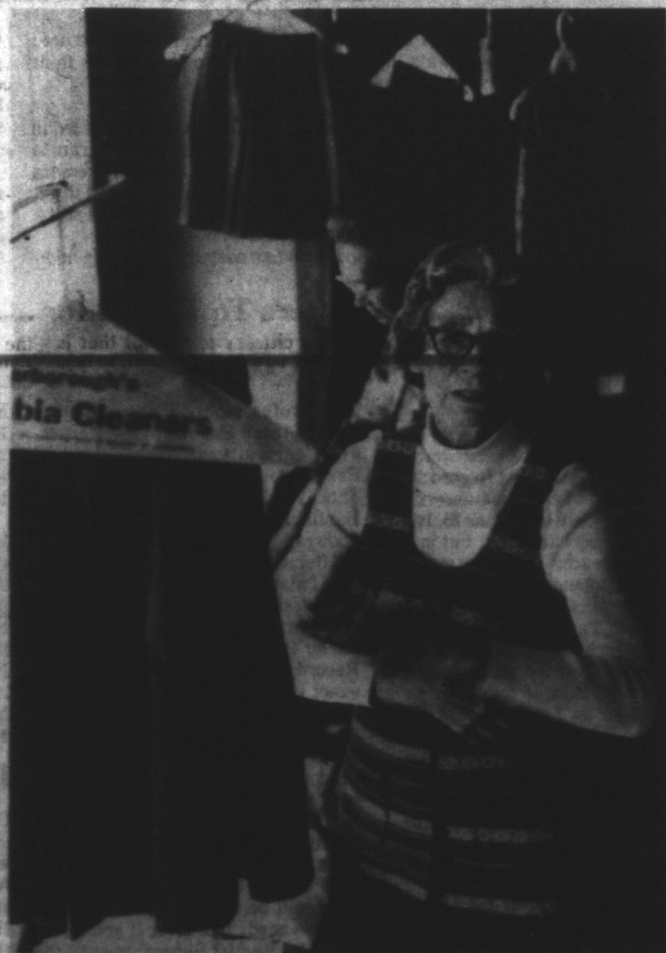
Catherine is planning for the possibility of remodeling one room at the center into a beauty room. "We have some ladies interested in helping the girls in personal hygiene. A beautician wants to help in cutting and styling hair." And others are willing to come give beauty tips, and talk about such things as interpersonal relationships.

Mark and David Rogers, youth director for FBC, are considering a coffeehouse for teens next summer, bringing in Christian musicians.

A couple of tangential ministries have developed out of the Madduxes' presence. Mark and Tim Lee, son of George Lee, have begun a radio program every Sunday evening from 8-10 p.m., on FM station WFFF. Called "Rock of Ages," the two play music from contemporary Christian musicians such as Larry Norman and Randy Matthews.

And Mark's father, Dale Maddux, has some help this week in his ministry as a result of Mark and Catherine being in Columbia. Seven laymen from Marion County gathered by George Lee have volunteered to help build a church in Fowler, Ind., an area of Dale Maddux's ministry as director of missions for N. Central Indiana.

South Columbia Baptist Mission Center is a ministry with few visible results. But as far as Mark and Catherine Maddux are concerned, the center serves a purpose that is simply not duplicated elsewhere. "The mission for a lot of them," says Catherine, "is a place where they can come and be loved."



Adults within explain the clothing center operation while Catherine Maddux prepares for the next day the room will be open.



Mark and Catherine Maddux lead the children in music during assembly on club day at the center.



Shagood Lee helps paint Christmas ornaments with girls during club day at the center.

## Holiday Fund Aids Children's Village

The food, milk and gift needs of boys and girls who are wards of The Baptist Children's Village, and who thus make their homes with the Convention's official child care agency, are currently being publicized and emphasized through The Village's annual Holiday Fund appeal. In its traditional announcement, the administration at The Children's Village explained that cash gifts from individual Baptists and friends of children which are received in response to the seasonal campaign will be used in underwriting the food and milk budget for Village children throughout the year in addition to making a few of the material joys of Christmas available to the young Village citizens.

Paul H. Numery, Village Superintendent, stated that the dual appeal of the Holiday Fund has met with generous and helpful response from individuals in Mississippi in recent years. According to Numery, The Children's Village "would have been in real trouble" in its basic food needs in each of the past five years except for what he

characterized as the love and concern of individual Baptists expressed through this traditional love offering to the children during the Thanksgiving-Christmas season.

"We realize that the uncertainties and pressures of the inflated economic times in which we live have burdened every home and every bread-winner in our state," Numery commented, "but we know that thousands who love God and are thus concerned about the basic needs of neglected and dependent children who are thus concerned about the basic needs of neglected and dependent children who are our direct responsibility, realize that costs of food and milk represent one of our major problems. Because we have faith in God and confidence in Mississippi Baptists, we believe our needs will be met again this year."

The Baptist Children's Village, as an agency of Mississippi Baptist Convention, receives a portion of its support through a Cooperative Program allocation. Superintendent Numery has pointed out that The Village remains dependent upon designated giving for more than 75% of its budgeted needs. The Village operates a large campus on Flag Chapel Drive near Jackson, a "country-life campus" near Independence in Tate County on the Farrow Manor property, and a Satellite Home in New Albany. The Holiday Fund announcement emphasized that the needs of the children at all three installations must be supplied by gifts to The Village's central offices at P. O. Box 11288, Jackson, Mississippi, 39213.

### Youth Evangelism

### Training Conference Scheduled Dec. 27-28

Barry Landrum, pastor of First Baptist Church, Greenville, will be featured speaker during this year's Youth Evangelism Training Conference.

Theme for the conference which meets Dec. 27-28 at Jackson's Alta Woods Baptist Church, is "What Is Your Life?"

Led entirely by Mississippi church staff members and laypersons, the two day conference is designed primarily to teach high school youth to witness effectively to their faith in Jesus Christ.

The conference, sponsored by the Evangelism Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, will include special seminars such as: "Assurance in Relationship to Christ," "How to Develop an Effective Prayer Life," "Guidelines in Bible Study," "What It Means to be a Disciple," and "Strategies in Witnessing." Also included are multi-media theme interpretations and puppeteering.

The conference begins at 2 p.m., Dec. 27, and ends at 8:30 p.m., Dec. 28.

## NAB Appeals TV Ruling

WASHINGTON (BP) — The National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) said here it will appeal the decision of U. S. District Court Judge Warren Ferguson that television's "Family Viewing Hour" violates the free speech provision of the First Amendment to the U. S. Constitution.

Ferguson said in a ruling in Los Angeles that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the NAB may not force networks to not include on hour of prime time nightly for programming which minimizes sex and violence.

The 223-page decision also points out that while the court cannot force the networks to abandon the family hour, each network must be allowed to schedule its own programming, without interference from the FCC and NAB.



# The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

## Editorials

### Personally . . .

## A Memory of Christmas

A memory of the Christmas season of 1946 has become lodged in my mind. I was a college student trying to make ends meet on the G. I. Bill for World War II veterans.

I was a member of Seventh and James Baptist Church in Waco, Texas; and as the promotion was made that year for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions, I remember the wish that I could have some great amount to place in the offering.

I was studying journalism, and the thought is still as clear in my memory as it was the night it first entered my thinking. I knew the likelihood was not great that I would never have a large amount of money to give, but there might be an opportunity some day to offer words that might have some influence on others to make whatever gifts they could to that worthwhile cause.

This was five and one-half years before there was even a hint of the possibility that my field might one day be religious journalism.

This is detailed here to reflect on the wondrous ways of the Lord and to seek in some measure to fulfill that obligation first noted 30 years ago.

There may not have been as much written as there should have been, but the writer has sought with words and with space provided for those of others to make provisions for a proper promotion of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. The fact that the offering comes at Christmas is significant because it gives a tangible means of remembering Christ's birth and also because the dedicated missionary who suggested it and for whom it was named died on Christmas Eve on board a ship in a Japanese harbor on her way home. She had given her life to carry the message into a far-away area of the world.

Even more significantly, the \$29 million of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is desperately needed if we are going to continue the pace of our effort to get the Word to everyone. The far-away area of Lottie Moon, mainland China, does not have missionaries any more. How much time do we have in some other places on the earth?

On Dec. 1, the Wednesday immediately preceding the writing of these words, the writer was a guest of the Woman's Missionary Union of Ingalls Avenue Baptist Church in Pas-

cagoula for the program on the Lottie Moon Offering and week of prayer for foreign missions. The fine materials presented by the very capable young women of that church stirred the memories of that 1946 Christmas season. This was mentioned in some brief remarks later during the prayer service.

There might be one or two who remember a similar editorial to this one in the California Southern Baptist. After returning from Pascagoula I was looking in the 1972 bound volume of that publication to see what had been written about Christmas and ran across it. I had forgotten about writing that editorial about the memory of the Lottie Moon Offering period of 1946, but that memory was rekindled during the Pascagoula meeting, nevertheless.

The Lottie Moon Offering Goal this year is a significant amount, and it can do so much in spreading the gospel. The writer has never been on a foreign missions trip, but those who have say monuments to the Lottie Moon Offering are to be found the world around. Let's all do our part in helping to raise that \$29 million in the name of the Savior whose message we are seeking to proclaim.

## Check the Mail

Your attention is called to the Letters to the Editor. They are always interesting and informative, but this week has a special one. It is from Harold E. Hurst, assistant to the medical consultant of the Foreign Mission Board.

Mr. Hurst is pointing out the need for volunteers in the medical profession to go to overseas missions hospitals to help the doctors in those institutions

who are facing insurmountable need in ministering to the sick in their areas.

Some months ago Mississippi led in a pilot project which was a program to encourage doctors to serve overseas for a month. Mississippi helped to get the program going, but there is still a critical need.

It is not an easy thing to do. In addition

to being away from one's own practice or job there are expenses that must be met besides the discomfort of being away from home and family for some period of time.

But the need, evidently, is desperate. Please read Mr. Hurst's letter, and then determine what it is that you can do to help bring relief to the situation.

## Letters To The Editor

### Interested In Centennial Issue

Dear Editor:

I'm interested in your special Centennial issue. I read every word in every issue of the Baptist Record; and I have as long as I can remember. I am 79 years old — will be 80 June 28, 1977.

I taught school 41 years; but in my training for teaching I knew a wonderful person, Roland Q. Leavell. He was our pastor — his first church to pastor was here in Taylor. We had services then once each month (now full time). He walked down the railroad track from Oxford, Miss. (8 miles) to come to preach for us. I was about 15 years old — had finished high school; for I went to my grandmother at age 4; so I was ready for college. I was thinking of Blue Mountain; but Roland Leavell contacted Dr. Johnson, who was president of Mississippi Woman's College, now William Carey; and Dr. Johnson said, "See that she comes on here, I'll take care of her." And he did. I worked hard in the Self-Help Home. Finally Dr. Johnson put me over the college book store. He said that I did all so well. There in college we studied missionary books, all kinds of religious books on Sunday afternoon during Quiet Hour. The Baptist Record — as I remember — was always around for us to read. My life at Mississippi Woman's College was wonderful. I loved that college.

There in my senior year (1917), I was business manager of the Pine Burr and anniversary of the Hermonian Society — giving orally a long paper that I had written myself — not reading it. There were so many honors I received there — and I love that place — although I haven't been back since 1917 — and I truly loved Dr. Johnson — and Mrs. Johnson. They were dedicated people.

From Hattiesburg, after graduation

with Professional License given, I went to teach English in the Harpersville Agricultural High School of Forest County. There, too I taught Sunday School classes and read the Baptist Record. I always picked it up and read it.

After coming home from Harpersville I married — had three children — also finished University of Mississippi and started back to teaching. That I did for 41 years. I still read the Baptist Record thoroughly. I cannot state the exact years; for I do not know.

Now I am retired; but I have put flowers in our church for the past 59 years — also I've taught a Sunday School class all these years. All this is part of me and my training. Not long ago someone suggested that our church quit giving us The Baptist Record. I rose — I said, "No! No! I've read that all these years; and something will be taken from this church that we need; moreover if you fail to read The Baptist Record, you are the loser. I want us to see that all our members have that opportunity." They still see that we get it. I hope they continue.

To me The Baptist Record is a paper that all Baptists should take and read, not throw aside as useless. In it all will find thoughts to strengthen their lives and draw all closer and dearer to God. I need that, for I am alone. My husband died in 1967.

Please forgive me for writing so much. I could keep on. I'm interested in Bicentennials and Centennials. Corrie Mitchell Jones (Mrs. N. B. Jones) Taylor, MS

### Medical Volunteers

Dear Sir:

From the very outset of this letter, I want to express my appreciation for the coverage you have given Foreign Mission Board news about medical volunteers serving overseas. This coverage has helped many outstanding men and women recognize an opportunity to serve for short terms overseas.

Right now, we are in desperate need of more medical volunteers, especially surgeons. Our Baptist mission hospitals depend upon volunteers to supplement the work of missionary physicians. The situation is critical in many of our Baptist hospitals and the workload on missionary personnel almost unbearable. Missionaries turn away many patients each day for lack of time and personnel. In one hospital 15 operations are performed daily and the surgical schedule is backlogged through February with no relief in sight except volunteers.

Physicians, dentists, lab technicians, nurses, and other medical personnel can be used immediately and for the next 12 months. Volunteers

have already served well in Bangladesh, India, Jordan, Gaza, and Africa. There are more openings in each of these places and other countries.

We thank you again for the excellent news coverage and for this opportunity to let others in the medical profession know of service needs and opportunities. We ask you and other Southern Baptists to join with us in prayer that these needs may be met.

Harold E. Hurst  
Assistant to the  
Medical Consultant  
Foreign Mission Board

### Equal Rights

Dear Mr. McGregor,

The Equal Rights Amendment was almost passed last year and the bill is for passage now according to Paul Harvey. If it passes they will rewrite the Bible. How many people know that? There was an ad in our paper by one of the churches about it several times.

Do we have to obey the law if it passes?

Another thing I'm shocked at is — they're teaching witchcraft in schools but Christ's name can't be mentioned. Is that justice? Satan is out to get you anyway he can.

Mrs. Yvonne Lawrence  
Meridian

### Expression Of Thanks

Dear Don:

At the recent state convention you presented to me a collection of letters relative to my retirement. These had come from hundreds of friends across the state and nation, and even from across the seas.

Words cannot express what the reading of these letters has meant to Mabel and to me. Our hearts have been warmed, our memories stirred, and tears sometimes have filled our eyes as we have perused these expressions of love that have come from so many. We shall treasure them always.

Obviously it is impossible for me to answer personally each of these messages, as much as I should like to do so. (You see, I no longer have a secretary.) Since I cannot write each one, I should like to use the columns of the Baptist Record to carry this word of appreciation to all who wrote, and also to those who have communicated with us in other ways.

We are deeply grateful for each word that has been written or spoken, and for each prayer that has ascended to heaven for us. Be assured that we love each of you, and that you ever will be in our hearts, and in our prayers.

Sincerely,  
Joe (and Mabel) Odle  
1322 Robert Drive  
Jackson, MS 39211

## Book Reviews

COMMENTARY ON THE EPISTLE TO THE ROMANS, by Martin Luther, a new translation by J. Theodore Mueller; Kregel Publications, Grand Rapids, Mich.; 223 pages; \$4.95.

In the fall of 1515 Martin Luther began to teach Romans to his students at the University of Wittenburg. Two years later he posted his 95 theses. In his own introduction to the commentary, Luther said, "This epistle is really the chief part of the New Testament and the very purest gospel, and is worthy not only that every Christian should know it word for word, by heart, but occupy himself with it every day, as the daily bread of the soul. It can never be read or pondered too much, and the more it is dealt with the more precious it becomes, and the better it tastes."

John Wesley said, on May 24, 1738, "In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther's Preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for my salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken my sins away, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death."

THE SERVANT WHO RULES by Ray C. Stedman (Word Books, \$5.95, 223 pp.) This book, covering Mark 1:1-Mark 8:26, is the first of a two-volume expositional study of the Gospel of Mark in which the author explores in depth the life and ministry of Jesus as a model for today's Christian servants. (The second volume is titled THE RULER WHO SERVES.) "In a world where we are taught that life is lived by the principle of survival of the fittest, Jesus came to introduce another way," says Dr. Stedman. "You could describe it as 'the survival of the humblest.'"

RUN FROM THE PALE PONY by Ronald and Myra Sae Pruet (Baker, \$4.95, 159 pp.) This is a book for those who have met the pale pony, Chronic Illness. It is the honest and candid story of Ronald and Myra Sae Pruet's struggle with his multiple sclerosis. For those who live with chronic illness, this book can provide spiritual, mental, and emotional support. Formerly a consulting petroleum engineer and geologist, Pruet is now associate professor in economics and finance at the University of Mississippi.

ALL THE BIRDS OF THE BIBLE by Alice Parmelee (Keats, paper, \$3.50, 279 pp.) This is the record of a journey through the Bible watching for its birds. The author has used imagination and thoroughness in her presentations of the birds' stories, identification, and meaning. She studied their Hebrew names and compared the birds of the Bible with those flying in Palestine today. Illustrations were selected from a wide variety of sources, with more than 64 pages of photographs. Indexes are included.

YOUR EXCITING MIDDLE YEARS by John C. Cooper and Rachel Conrad Wahlberg (Words Books, paper, \$3.95, 153 pp.) The authors share what it means to be at mid-point in life. Who's in the Middle? What Do You Want to Be? Who Do You Talk To? Who Do You Care About? are some of the areas they discuss. This book points out the inexhaustible riches of the Christian faith — for every age of a person's life.

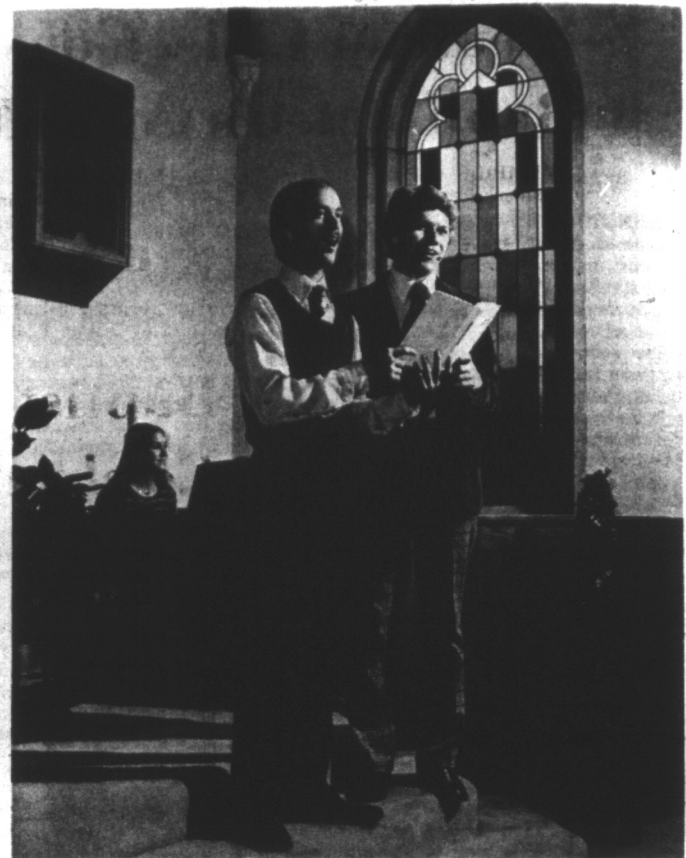
NORMA by Norma Zimmer (Tyndale House, \$7.95, 308 pp.) The behind-the-scenes life story of Norma Zimmer of the Lawrence Welk Show. No one would guess that behind her beautiful smile and litting song is an unbelievable story of almost insurmountable difficulties — of early years of poverty as a migrant berry picker — of overwhelming family illness, but of personal triumph in the sustaining grace of God. This is Norma's story in her own words complete with pictures.

BREAD FOR THE WILDERNESS, WINE FOR THE JOURNEY by John Killinger; Word Books, Waco, Texas; 123 pages; \$5.95.

In a personal way the author talks about the deeper meaning of prayer and the inner life. He traces his own spiritual pilgrimage and shares how he became convinced that prayer is real. The author is professor of preaching, worship, and literature at Vanderbilt University Divinity School.

THE CHURCH THAT TAKES ON TROUBLE, the story of Chicago's LaSalle Street Church, by James and Marti Hefley; David C. Cook Publishing Co.; Elgin, Ill.; Weston, Ontario, La Habra, Calif.; 242 pages; \$5.95.

This is the story of an inner-city church that has turned its attention to the poverty, violence, and crippling needs that surround it, and has grown to meet those needs. The book is the chronicle of a small body of believers seeking better ways to serve God and people. It offers legal aid, tutoring of neighborhood children, counseling service, and aid for the elderly.



### Student Day In December

Student Day at Christmas is an annual opportunity for students to assume leadership in church activities and acquaint church members with the Southern Baptist program of student ministries. This year's theme, "The Church Ministering on Campus," encourages the development of churchmanship, or involvement in the local church. The emphasis is sponsored by National Student Ministries of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. (Robert Jackson Photo)

## Faces And Places

By Anne Washburn McWilliams

Tuesday was December 7. Do you remember where you were on December 7, 1941, when the announcement came that Pearl Harbor had been bombed? If you are old enough to remember, then I expect that you do.

It was on a Sunday, Daddy and Mama, Betty and I went to County Line Baptist Church in the morning, where Daddy taught an adult class and Mama taught the Primaries. Then Uncle Roy and Aunt Lillian Lee came to our house for Sunday dinner. In late afternoon they were buttoning their coats in readiness to go home when the Christmas music on the radio stopped and the excited voice of a news announcer issued forth. I can remember the exact angle of the winter sunshine as it slanted through the double windows in the dining room.

Daddy turned up the volume and we all moved closer together as the grown-ups looked at each other in dismay and disbelief. If this happened now, Mama would probably call her only brother, Uncle Zeddie Allen, or his wife, Aunt Lura Earl, and they would talk about the news, but we had no telephone in 1941. Uncle Roy and Aunt Lillian stayed longer that afternoon and they all talked about the announcement, and what it could mean, but none of them could guess what the future held.

Next morning I rode the bus the mile and a half to Ridge Grove School where I was in eighth grade. E. G. Dabbs, the principal, climbed the stairs, leaned out the second story window, and rang the big bell above the front entrance, as he had all year at opening and closing times, and every day at noon. This time he rang the bell for special assembly. History was about to be made and he wanted us to realize we were part of it. In the big auditorium on the second floor, Mr. Dabbs switched on the luxurious "floor model" radio, the school's newest acquisition. We heard President Franklin Delano Roosevelt declare that the United States was at war, and would fight to defend her

freedom. We stood and pledged allegiance to the United States flag, and proudly sang "My Country, 'Tis of Thee, Sweet Land of Liberty. . ."

Earlier that year in his message to Congress on January 6, 1941, President Roosevelt had stated that Four Freedoms should prevail throughout the world—freedom of speech and expression, freedom of worship, freedom from want, and freedom from fear. These had been substantially incorporated into the Atlantic Charter, a program of peace aims jointly proclaimed by Prime Minister Winston Churchill of Great Britain and FDR on August 14, 1941.

It was on June 15, 1215, in a meadow called Runnymede on the banks of the River Thames that the Magna Charta was reluctantly signed by the tyrant, King John, and the "cornerstone of English liberty" was laid.

In July of 1955 I sailed on the Italian ship, Castel Felice, from Quebec to Southampton, and then rode on a bus to London. I was with a youth tour group led by my good friend, Louie Farmer, BSU director at the University of Southern Mississippi. One morning, following the meeting of the Baptist World Alliance, I had a few hours alone to poke around the nooks and crannies of the ancient city. For a little while I was in the British Museum and saw the document called the Magna Charta—now a shriveled parchment, but still a symbol of supremacy of constitution over king.

This year, during America's Bicentennial Celebration, the Magna Charta was brought to America and displayed in the Rotunda of the U. S. Capitol.

I am grateful for the freedom the Magna Charta brought to millions. I am sincerely glad, to be an American, and to be able to share in my country's celebration of her 200th year of freedom. But above all I am thankful for God's charter of liberty which Christ expressed in John 8:32: "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free!"

## — On The Moral Scene —

Light Sentences For Heavy Drug Offenders—Testifying before the Senate Subcommittee on Juvenile Delinquency, Peter B. Bensinger, administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration, cited Justice Department statistics showing that one out of every four persons convicted of trafficking in heroin received no prison sentence at all. In 1975, one out of three persons sentenced in federal court for a narcotic offense received probation and of those sentenced to a prison term, approximately one-third received sentences of three years or less. — (DAC Bulletin, September - October, 1976)

Deserter Profile — The U. S. Army has just completed a study of American Vietnam war deserters. Sample findings: more than half (56%) were volunteer soldiers; two-thirds were high school dropouts. In contrast to outright draft evaders, only a small number (12%) of the deserters went over the hill because of opposition to the war. Most left because of personal problems. (Newsweek, September 27, 1976)

LOVE IS NOT ENOUGH — The divorce rate (as recently reported by the National Center for Health Statistics) was up again in 1974. One out of every

50 married women were divorced that year. The new statistic continues an upward trend on divorces that began after World War II and escalated in the past decade to more than double that 1965 figure. What is the real explanation for the increasing rate of family dissolution? It is the simple but distressing fact that most families are not well-founded. It is attributable to two other notions that our society continues to teaching and reinforce through all the authorities it has at hand — The first is that mere sexual attraction — some call it "love" — is a sufficient foundation for marriage and building a family. The second is that free choice is vitally important in everyday life. . . . When "love" is the sole basis for a marriage, there is nothing left when it fades. No residue of respect, friendship or mutual dependence between the spouses remains to act as a family foundation. Instead of staying together and trying to build a foundation that could support the family's continued existence, the typical modern couple, believing that every choice, including their earlier choice of each other, is revocable, gets a divorce. The 1974 statistics confirm a pattern of early exit from marriage. The media duration at the time of divorce was only 6.5 years, a drop from 8.7 in 1972. (The New Republic, June 19, 1976, pp. 8-9, Judith T. Younger)

### The Baptist Record

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## Clemmons Elected Baptist Men's Consultant

MEMPHIS (BP) — William P. Clemmons, former director of the Vineyard Conference Center in Louisville, Ky., was elected Baptist Men's consultant for the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission here, effective Nov. 15.

Clemmons, a former foreign missionary to Italy, will be responsible for the commission's field service and leadership training programs for Baptist men.

In the newly created position under a reorganization plan approved last year by the commission's trustees, Clemmons will coordinate Baptist Men's work as a part of the Brotherhood Commission's program section directed by Bob Banks.

Active in renewal, Clemmons, 44, directed the Vineyard Conference Center established by Southern Baptist Theological Seminary professor, Findley Edge, from 1973-76.

Previously, he was director of the program of family ministry and the program of vocational guidance for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, 1969-72.

He was minister of education for two churches in Louisville, Beechwood Baptist Church and Baptist Tabernacle, for five years.

Appointed as a missionary by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in 1959, he served for 10 years as a missionary to Italy. Prior to that he was pastor of Tusculum Hills Baptist Church, Nashville.

He is the author of three books, including the recently published "Discovering the Depths," "God's New People," and "Growth Through Groups," which he co-authored with Harvey A. Hester.

He entered the doctor of education and master of divinity and master of religious education degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, and is a graduate of the University of South Carolina, Columbia. He has also done post-doctoral studies at George Peabody College, Nashville.

## Baptist Seminary In Mexico Celebrates 75th Anniversary

MEXICO CITY, Mexico — A service to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Baptist seminary here was held recently.

The overflow crowd was composed of members of Mexico City's 30 Baptist churches and the seminary's 95 students, a record enrollment, according to Southern Baptist Missionary Pat H. Carter, president of the seminary.

Of special interest, also, was the laying of the cornerstone of the new library-sound studio building, an event which marked the conclusion of an eight-year construction program.

Southern Baptist Missionary James D. Crane, president of the seminary from 1948-61, brought the message. Officials of the Mexico City Baptist Association and the National Baptist Convention of Mexico brought words of congratulations.

Since the decision in 1967 to move the seminary from Torreon, six hundred miles to the north, a building program has been in progress, according to Carter. With the dedication of the library-sound studio building, the program of construction was completed.

## Clear Creek Church (Lafayette) Celebrates Her 140th Anniversary

Clear Creek Church celebrated her 140th anniversary on November 20 and 21. The celebration began Saturday night with a harvest supper. The Honorable William D. Waller, former governor and a former resident of the community and former member of Clear Creek, delivered the address on the history of the church.

According to Governor Waller's research, the church was organized on August 12, 1836. Rev. Joseph Lane was the first pastor. A new building was erected in 1856. Mr. Waller pointed out that the people built a beautiful new brick building, one that would honor the Lord, when most of the members were living in log houses. The bricks

were made on a creek that runs about a half-mile behind the church and the lumber was cut from the surrounding area. This building stood when most of the buildings in Oxford and Lafayette County were destroyed during the Civil War.

The celebration climaxed with the morning worship service November 21. The Rev. Arthur Leslie, Director of Missions for Lafayette-Marshall Association, delivered the 140th anniversary message.

Rev. Leslie pointed out that several important things had happened during the life of the church. The Mississippi Baptist Convention was reorganized in 1836; the Southern Baptist Convention was organized in 1845; Blue Mountain College was started in 1873, and Clarke and William Carey have been started during the life of the church. The Baptist Record printed its first edition in 1877. Several wars have been fought. The members have witnessed the inventions of the telephone, electric lights, airplane, automobile, television, and watched the first man step onto the moon. Twenty-six states have been added to the Union since the organization of the church.

In February of this year the church entered the first major renovation-restoration on the sanctuary. The exterior of the building has been restored. A new addition has been built on the back of the sanctuary to house a baptistry and dressing rooms. Six new members were baptized in the baptistry on August 21. The interior of the sanctuary is in the process of being renovated and will be completed the first of January. This includes a new floor, new plaster on the walls, new ceiling, new lighting, and all new furnishings. Seventy-five per cent of the work has been finished and paid for. The Rev. Ken McMillen is pastor.

the convention voted unanimous approval of the seminary move.

"Optimism for the future of the seminary and Baptist work here prevails," said Carter. "Missionaries and nationals, united as never before, thank God for the last 75 years and look forward to the future."

## Hebrew Profs Elect Southern Baptist Seminary Staffers

ST. LOUIS (RNS) — Two Southern Baptists have been chosen leaders of an organization with predominantly Jewish membership.

Prof. John Joseph Owens, who teaches Old Testament interpretation at Southern Seminary, Louisville, was elected president of the National Association of Professors of Hebrew at its annual meeting, here.

Prof. Page Kelley, director of graduate studies at the seminary, was re-elected vice president.

The several hundred members of the association teach modern or biblical Hebrew in U. S. colleges, universities, divinity schools, and seminaries.



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## World Baptists Resolve Human Rights Statements

VALLEY FORGE, Pa. (BP) — The Executive Committee of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA), meeting in annual session here, adopted three resolutions on various aspects of human rights and further recommended that its General Council establish special days of emphasis on peace and human rights.

Recommendations to the General Council scheduled to meet next July 11-15 in Guatemala City, ask that the BWA establish an annual Day of Prayer for World Peace and that Baptists join in the United Nations' designation of each December 10 as Human Rights Day.

Other resolutions opposed torture, the taking of hostages, and the violent destruction of health and life.

O. K. Zimmerman, vice chairman of the BWA relief division, reported that Baptists have contributed more than \$500,000 to the Alliance's programs of relief and development during the first 10 months of 1976. Besides meeting human needs in natural catastrophes, the program includes developmental programs for economically needy areas and assistance to churches working in difficult places, he said.

A current program in church aid includes cooperation with United Bible Societies in sending 20,000 new church hymnals into the USSR. The shipment of hymnals and an earlier shipment of Bibles is being done with the approval of the Russian Government, the BWA said.

In other action the BWA Executive Committee approved Bible study, witness, and world outreach as the initial three annual emphases for the Baptist World Alliance's new division of evangelism and education. The three annual objectives were approved on recommendation of the division committee chaired by James L. Sullivan of Nashville, president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC).

"The division of evangelism and education is moving forward and upward in its plans and actions within the guidelines given it by the 13th Baptist World Congress (in 1975 in Stockholm) and the BWA General Council," Sullivan reported.

The resolution on torture said, "It is a matter of grave anxiety that torture and secret imprisonment are being used by many governments, anti-government groups, and others to extract information, to suppress criticism, and to intimidate opposition, so that throughout the world countless numbers of men, women and children are suffering inhuman treatment."

"We believe in the worth of every individual as a creation in God's image, and that no circumstances whatever can justify practices intended to break bodies, minds, and spirits," it continued.

"The Alliance calls on its affiliates, their churches, and members, as well as members of other religious organizations, to create a force of public opinion which will obligate those responsible to dismantle everywhere the administrative apparatus which permits or encourages torture, and to observe effectively those international agreements under which its use is strictly forbidden."

The statement on hostages noted that the taking of hostages, whether airline passengers or other innocent persons, "is a particularly cruel act of violence which indiscriminately claims or threatens the lives of helpless people."

It calls "upon the United Nations to draft a covenant banning the taking of hostages and providing that the alleged perpetrators are either subject to extradition or are brought before the courts in the country in which they are seized."

The fourth statement noted "that, in various countries, persons of opposing views and criminal attitudes engage in wanton acts of violence which result in the maiming and death of defenseless people." It called "upon society to direct efforts of education, law enforcement, and judicial process toward the elimination of such violent destruction of health and life."

Expanding its program of international conferences, the Alliance elected Miss Betty Lee Smith to a newly created position of assistant secretary with responsibility for conference and youth work. Miss Smith has been active as a staff member the past 11 years, but the vote made her the first woman executive in the BWA's 71 year history.

Andrew MacRae, general secretary of the Baptist Union of Scotland, was named chairman of a coordinating subcommittee for a 1977-78 emphasis on "New People Through Bible Study." The 1978-79 emphasis on "New People for Witness and Service" will be chaired by Mrs. Letha Casazza of Washington, D. C., director of promotion for the BWA Women's Department.

The 1979 emphasis, "Into all the world, New People for a New World," will focus on international responsibilities, climaxing at the 14th Baptist World Congress in Toronto, July 6-13, 1980.



## Good News Bible Publication Set

NEW YORK — The Good News Bible, a major new translation of the Bible in English, will be published by the American Bible Society on Dec. 1, completing a project which began with the publication in 1965 of the Today's English New Testament. Good News for Modern Man. Over 50 million copies of the New Testament translation are in circulation.

The Good News Bible is illustrated with nearly 300 line drawings by Swiss artist Anne Vallotton. (RNS Photo)

# YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW Annuity Board decisions will affect retirement plans. positively!

by  
Darold H. Morgan

Major policies approved by Annuity Board trustees during 1976 definitely will influence retirement planning and funding for decades to come. Some of these policies pertain to internal administration. But three decisions will have great impact on retirement benefits of members in a very positive way. Here are the decisions:

**New Retirement Program.** The new program, announced early in the year, goes into operation on January 1, 1978. The state Baptist conventions have approved it and are recommending it to their churches. After that date, any minister or church employee who joins the retirement program will be in the new plan.

The new program has two sections. One section pertains to the disability and survivor benefits in the event of a member's death. The state convention contributes up to \$200 a year

into this section for all eligible active career ministerial personnel. In the other section, the church is asked to pay a minimum of 10% of total compensation for the retirement of each minister and salaried employee.

Some current members may find it advantageous to participate in the new plan. If you stand to gain, you will have the opportunity to transfer during 1977.

**We'll let you know in ample time!**

**New Fixed Income Plan.** All Plan B participants will have a choice of the kind of investments they want the Board to make in their plan. They may choose the new Plan B11 with fixed income investments only, or Plan B10, which is a combination of equity and fixed income investments. Fixed income investments are those where earnings remain at a relatively stable rate, while equity investments vary.

**New Annuity Rates.** Retirement benefits for Plans B and C will be larger in the future because a new annuity rate will be used to figure these benefits. For persons retiring, benefits will be computed on 6%, up from 4% previously. Most persons currently retired will get larger checks in 1977 also.

**An Urgent Appeal.** Regardless of where a member serves, he has a first class retirement program. Our primary objective is to make it even better. Thousands of staff members in our churches need the benefits of this pension program. May I again appeal to each layperson to see that his church provide all staff members protection benefits based on an amount equal to 10% of total compensation. Each employee will need at retirement all the benefits the full 10% will yield.

We're always glad to serve you. If you have any questions about the Annuity Board programs, write me. I'll see that you get an answer as quickly as possible. Or you may call our toll free number any time between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. (CST) Monday-Friday. Dial 1-800-527-4767.

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## Harold O'Chester Is Pastor

# Allandale Cited As Fastest Growing Texas Sunday School

The November issue of *Christian Life* says Allandale church in Austin, Texas, was the fastest growing Sunday school in Texas from September 1975 to May 1976.

Pastor Harold E. O'Chester was presented a banner for the achievement at the Mid-America Sunday School Convention in Detroit.

Rev. O'Chester formerly pastored the following churches in Mississippi: East Side, Jackson; Carmel, Monticello; Big Ridge, Biloxi; First, Purvis; and Poplar Springs Drive, Meridian.

The magazine cited the Austin church for achieving a net growth of 580 during the period, making it the 18th fastest growing Sunday school in

the nation. In this church year the Sunday school has grown from 300 to 2,000.

But the church, founded 25 years ago and ministering to people in every social stratum, also has grown significantly in other areas, says O'Chester.

Baptisms have totaled more than 1,000 in the last three years, and 346 in the last church year. Church training attendance is averaging over 500, the church has received an average of more than 17 new members per week over the last five years—membership is up from 585 to 3,100—and the budget has increased from \$76,000 to \$200,000. Missions gifts are up 300 per cent over the last seven years and during that period 14 property acquisitions have been made and five buildings have been erected by the church.

"This church is not afraid to try something new," O'Chester says. "We were the first church in Texas to use the ACTION plan and enrolled more than 750 in Sunday school through it."

O'Chester praises the lay people of the church for growth. "They have been willing to 'faith' God for the impossible," he said.

He also praised his staff, all Baptist-seminary trained associates to the pastor—J. C. Hatfield, education/administration; Edward Lott, (a Mississippian from Gulfport) pastoral ministries; Terry Ward, special ministries; Ural Clayton, music; and Lynda Sheeran, childhood education.

But he credits the success to a dependence on the Holy Spirit by the church and staff, an intercessory prayer ministry that has continued 24 hours daily for the last four years, application of Arthur Flake's Sunday school growth principles, utilizing special services away from the church property and a bus ministry.

The bus ministry, he said, "is only another one of the many ministries of the church. In the past three years we have cut back on it and now average only about 150 riders."

## Midwestern Designs Courses For Bold Mission Thrust

Accepting the challenge of Southern Baptists' Mission Challenge Committee put forth in Norfolk at the 1976 National convention, Midwestern Seminary has designed and scheduled its entire spring semester in order to relate to the Southern Baptist Convention's Bold Mission campaign.

Recommendation 9 of that report reading, "That the convention request the six seminaries, in cooperation with the two mission boards, to review and strengthen the academic and clinical programs for the training of those dedicated to missions service," Midwestern's curriculum and student missions programs will relate to Bold Mission in general and to the Home Mission Board's Bold Mission Thrust, in particular.

An outgrowth of the convention's 25 year plan for Bold Mission, Bold Mission Thrust (BMT) is the Home Mission Board effort to "let every person in our land have an opportunity to hear and accept the Gospel of Jesus Christ" and "let every person in our land have an opportunity to share in the witness and ministry of a New Testament fellowship of believers."

Drawing on a variety of sources and methods, the campaign has as its task the challenge of providing "exciting new mission education."

"Our entire spring semester will emphasize BMT so that each term will include a specific area of the campaign," said academic dean, John Howell.

"Midwestern is uniquely able to include this sort of program in its curriculum because of its four-week mini-term concept of scheduling. Each of the four terms in our spring

semester will stress a different aspect of BMT, bringing in experts in each aspect as adjunct professors," Howell said.

The first such adjunct will be Dr. Arthur B. Rutledge, retiring Executive Director-Treasurer of the HMB. Called "the architect" of the four-year mission strategy, Rutledge will introduce the concepts of the campaign in a course study entitled "Missions in the U.S."

Other HMB personnel will also be joining the Kansas City Seminary as adjunctive faculty to deal with specific areas of the mission advance strategy.

## Ingalls Avenue Honors Dr. Webb

Dr. Allen O. Webb, pastor of Ingalls Avenue Church, Pascagoula was honored at a reception on Sunday evening, November 11, for five years service at the church.

During his five year tenure the church has made substantial progress in every facet of church life.

A total of 224 persons have been baptized into the membership with 352 persons added by transfer of letter for a total of 686.

The church has received through tithes and offerings a total of \$18,000.00, with a projected budget of \$145,000 for 1977.

The dedication of a \$25,000 Christian Activities Center was observed by the church on October 3, 1976.

A bus ministry has been initiated which reaches over 100 children in a church Bible study supported by a Little People's Church program.

Additional staff personnel have been added under Dr. Webb's leadership, the current addition being minister of education and activities.

Dr. Webb is active in denominational affairs. He has served as Chairman of the Missions Committee of the Jackson County Association for four years and is currently serving as moderator. He has also been elected to

## Naylor Announces 1978 Retirement From Seminary

FORT WORTH (BP)—Robert E. Naylor, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological since 1958, announced his retirement plans during the fall meeting of the seminary's board of trustees here.

## Library Resource To Be Focus Of Clinics

NASHVILLE — In six regional library clinics planned during February and March, heavy emphasis will be placed on the concepts contained in The Learning Team: the Learner, the Leader and the Library.

Learning as a team effort is discussed in the Convention Press book by author Keith Moe, supervisor of the church library department's program and field services section, Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. He gives special attention to the role of the church library/media center in education.

In reviewing the book Ralph Atkinson, vice president for institutional development at Mississippi College and former dean of the school of religion education at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, commented: "Moe has produced a long-needed resource for linking the library as a resource center to the educational processes of the churches."

Regional church library clinics for 1977 are scheduled Jan. 28-29 in Los Angeles; Feb. 4-5 in Des Moines, Wash.; March 4-5 in Silverport, La.; March 11-12 in Baltimore, Md.; and March 18-19 in Wichita, Kans., and Indianapolis.

## Southern Baptists Aid Victims

(Continued from page 1)

500 families, according to Charles W. Bryan, the board's area secretary for Middle America and the Caribbean.

After a week, La Paz was "saturated with food, medicine, building supplies and clothing," Baggett said. Prefabricated homes were rapidly rising. So, as the pressing material needs in La Paz had been met, Baptists turned their energies more to evangelism in the city and plans for a returned trip to the south.

Southern Baptist representative Wyatt W. Lee also stationed in Guadalajara, directed relief efforts in Los Mochis. Baggett said: "When I arrived in Los Mochis, Lee and other Baptists were actively engaged in administering relief funds to help those who had lost their homes."

"They interviewed each homeowner and inspected the damage to the homes, then gave corrugated tar paper for roofs, as they saw the need. In Los Mochis, 250 families were helped. In Navajoa, 300 families were helped."

Immediate response in Los Mochis consisted of food distribution, according to Perry. A local businessman,

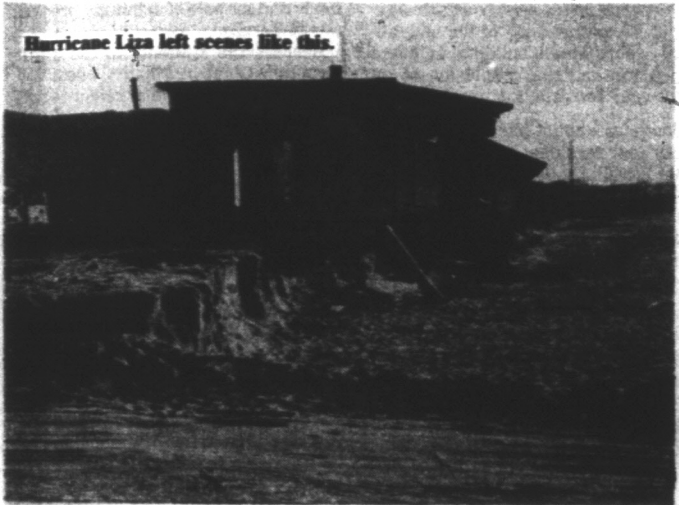
Jose Castro, gave away large quantities of food from his company's wholesale stock. Over 150 families received food.

"Local Baptists witnessed throughout the area," Baggett said. "As they distributed food and materials they explained that this help was available because Baptists cared."

"People continue, even now, requesting tracts and gospel to find out what made the Baptists actually do the things they talked about. They are also requesting a government donation of land to build a chapel," Baggett added.

Bryan explained, "The Baptist work, even though small, has ministered in an outstanding way in this time of disaster. Despite the fact that the closest Southern Baptist representatives, Baggett and Lee, do not reside in the area, they were still able to encourage the churches in La Paz and the Los Mochis area during a time when encouragement was needed."

Baggett said he, and Lee had to return to Guadalajara to continue their work, but Baptists in La Paz and Los Mochis continued to minister to those around them.



Hurricane Liza left scenes like this.

## Macedonia Men To Hear County Officials

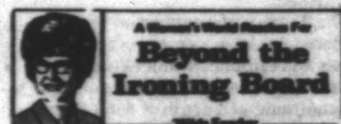
The Macedonia Church's monthly Brotherhood Breakfast will take a different approach, beginning December 12. Instead of the traditional affairs which generally make up this type of meeting, the Macedonia group plans to invite a different Simpson County elected government official to speak at each meeting.

The office holder will be allowed to tell of his or her plans and aspirations while in office, and a question and answer period will follow.

"This will add a new dimension to our Brotherhood Breakfasts without taking away from the spiritual relationship among the men and boys," said the Rev. Howard McLemore, pastor of Macedonia Church.

The Brotherhood meets on the second Sunday morning of each month at 7:30 a.m.

Sheriff Lloyd Jones has agreed to be the first visitor and is expected to enlighten the men about the responsibilities and duties of his office.



It is supposed that we should learn something from every experience that we have. So I have been thinking about what I have or should have learned from the experience of having surgery and the experience of recuperating from surgery.

So, here's what I'm listing: That a family can get a pretty good Thanksgiving dinner on the table without the mother. Quite a jolting bit of knowledge.

That miracle healing takes place in the polished technique and wise use of medical knowledge administered by Christian doctors and nurses. A most calming piece of knowledge.

That many nurses are still at work who fit the Florence Nightingale mold. A faith-in-humanity kind of knowledge.

That my spirit gets well a heap quicker than my body. Knowledge that is learned when I feel as if I could do a full day's work, then find that folding ten towels tires me, leading to a reminder that patience in what mothers must have the most of, all the time.

That your little boys really do grow up and know how to behave when manly behavior is required. A rewarding, sobering, and a bit shaking kind of knowledge, but the kind that a mother probably experiences all her life, however old she and her little boys get to be.

That the same strength which you draw on from God when you are well is available when you're sick. Not a new kind of knowledge, really, though.

That folks are so sweet, so thoughtful, so generous, so attentive, and that friends are so true.

That you like all the attention, flowers, gifts, visits, food, calls, cards, letters, etc. so much that you try to figure out what kind of operation to have next? You know I'm joking about that business of another operation.

That blessings really are not countable. No surprise in that knowledge, either.



A frightened Mexican child cries as Dr. Lee Baggett, Southern Baptist representative in Mexico, examines her.

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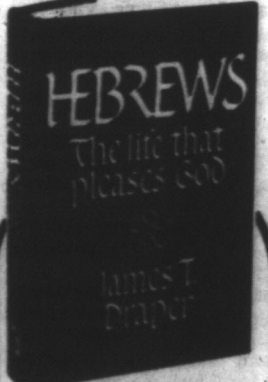
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by David Smith

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## Our Church ... And The Cooperative Program

By W. C. Burns, Pastor, First, Ellisville

Yes, we believe in the Cooperative Program. One of our G.A. girls said to me recently, "Preacher, does any little offering go to missions?"

I replied, "Yes, it does, for we give over 25% of our total budget to the Cooperative Program."

First Baptist Church, Ellisville has always been a mission-minded church. Each year for several years now, our church has felt God's leadership in increasing our gifts to the

## Cooperative Program

Missions, Missions, Missions is our business and we are blessed beyond measure as we give liberally to the total program of our great church.

The Bible says in II Cor. 9:7 "God loveth a cheerful Giver."

First Baptist Church, Ellisville has a resident membership of 425 and gave \$42.45 per member through the Cooperative Program in 1976 for a total of \$18,041.25 as of September 27, 1976. This is an increase for this period of \$4,000.00.

## MOVING?

If you are planning a change of address, please notify The Baptist Record of your old and your new address. It would help if you could supply all of the information that is to be found on the address label on your paper. An easy way to do this would be to affix the address label to the space below and send it to The Baptist Record, Box 526, Jackson, MS 39205.

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## Names In The News

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas O. Barrow, missionaries to Indonesia, may be addressed at Box 46, Bukittinggi, West Sumatra, Indonesia.

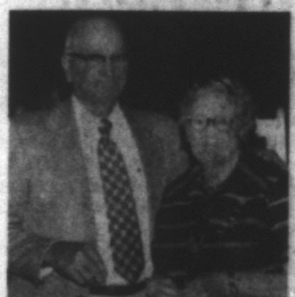


Six persons have received Sunday School perfect attendance pins at Concord Church, Tippah Association. Front row: Susan Walker, Laura Crawford, Carole Crawford. Back row: James D. Crawford, Ted Ledbetter, Charles Ledbetter. All these were for eight years, except James Crawford, who has five-year perfect record. Rev. Robert Walker is the pastor.



Dr. George Osborn (left), emeritus professor of history at the University of Florida, has been honored by Mississippi College with the "Service to Humanity" award. Making the presentation to him are Dr. Lewis Nobles (center), president of Mississippi College, and Dr. Edward McMillan, dean of the Graduate School and head of the department of History and Political Science. Dr. Osborn recently presented his personal library, including one of the top collections on Woodrow Wilson, to the college.

Navy Chaplain Benny J. Hornsby has been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Commander. A native of Lumberton, and a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi, University of Oklahoma and New Orleans Seminary, Chaplain Hornsby is married to the former June Gallagher of Tyler, Texas. He presently serves as aide and administrative assistant to the Chief of Navy Chaplains in Washington, D. C.



Mrs. Willie Boteler has received her 11th year pin for perfect attendance in Sunday School. She is a member of Briar Hill Church in Rankin County. Shown with her is R. L. Compere, former Sunday School director at the church.

The Rev. Andy Buckley is the new pastor of Calvary Church, Smithdale. Buckley is a native of Sulphur, La. He is a graduate of McNeese State University and is a second year student at New Orleans Seminary. He has served as associate pastor of Central Church, Kirbyville, Texas, and as pastor of Singer Church, DeBide, La. He is married to the former Debbie Crick of Westlake, La.

The Rev. Albert Ronald Richardson recently assumed the duties of chaplain for the North Mississippi Medical Center in Tupelo. In addition to his role as hospital chaplain, Rev. Richardson will head the Department of Pastoral Care at NMMC. He comes to the Medical Center from the Memorial Hospital System in Houston, Texas where he served as the chaplain resident in pastoral counseling and post-cardiac ministry.

Keith Chapman, author for a Dallas-based accounting firm, has been named assistant treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention Annuity Board, Dallas.



Mrs. W. A. Ross, left, has received a pin for 20 years of perfect attendance in Sunday School at the Roxie Church. Mrs. Ross teaches the Anna Davis Older Ladies' Sunday School Class at the Roxie Church. She says, "I thank God for the health to have been able to attend Sunday School 20 years without missing." Once she attended Sunday School in the Holy Land. Dan Ashley, right, Sunday School director, made the presentation.

Mary Frank Kirkpatrick, missionary to Nigeria, West Africa, will be coming to Mississippi for a Christmas holiday visit with her mother, Mrs. J. M. Kirkpatrick of Noxapater and other relatives and friends. She will arrive in Jackson on Delta Airlines Flight 709, Tuesday, December 14, at 2:57 p.m. She expects to be in the state about one month.

Oakland Church, Corinth, has called John Joiner as minister of music and youth. John, his wife Debbie, and their two sons moved to Corinth from Shreveport, La. where he served as an assistant to Price Harris of the Calvary Church.

Hopewell Church, Little Rock, Ms., recently ordained Alyon Dean, Leon Harrison, and Jack Hofmeister as deacons. Participating in the ceremony were Dr. C. H. Melton, Newton County director of missions, who presented the charge to the deacons, and the Rev. Wayne Edwards, pastor, who presented the charge to the church.

J. L. Lee, father of Carl G. Lee, missionary to Indonesia, died recently. Missionary Lee may be addressed at J. L. Melati 6, Purworejo (Kedu) Indonesia. He was born in Maverick, Tex., and grew up in Ballinger, Tex., and Hobbs, N. M. The former Twila Turner, she was born in Texarkana, Ark., and grew up in Illinois, Texas and Mississippi.

To Rev. William (Bill) Rakes-traw was ordained to the gospel ministry by Calvary Church of Corinth, on November 14. He is the new pastor of Mt. Moriah Church near Iuka. Left to right: Onell Bonds, chairman of deacons at Mt. Moriah; Rev. Bill Rakes-traw; Rev. Hugh Rakes-traw, pastor of South Green Church in Tupelo; Dr. James Travis, Bible Professor of Blue Mountain College. The Rev. Ralph Culp is pastor of Calvary Church.

Margaret Fairburn, missionary to Liberia, has completed furlough and returned to the field (address: Box 1416, Monrovia, Liberia).

## Around the World

# Personnel Help

By David R. Grant

Editor's Note:

Dr. David R. Grant, pastor of Broadmoor Baptist Church in Jackson and past president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, recently completed an around-the-world trip for the purpose of missions awareness. In a series of articles Dr. Grant is discussing his trip.

One thing that made an indelible impression on me was the multiple number of professions on the mission field. In a previous article, I alluded to this but now I want to share with you a special need. In many fields, there is a big need for what is called short-term personnel. This refers to professional people here at home who can go to a mission field for a few weeks and render a specific service. These needs are almost as varied as we have people. They go at their own expense. Many times they take their family along for the trip. The mission where they work helps out with housing while they are there.

Perhaps illustrations will clarify what I am saying. Recently, a doctor friend of mine who lives here in Jackson spent a few weeks at a Baptist hospital in Bangladesh. This doctor paid his own expenses over there and back and did a great work. While we were in Bangalore, India, we met a dentist from Texas who was spending a few weeks there at his expense, filling a very vital role in a much-needed place. He told us he spends some time every year doing this kind of work.

I am thinking of a plea for a pharmacist right now. The missionary shared with me how they could use one for a few weeks. Since my return, I have been in conversation with one of our church members and the Foreign Mission Board about meeting this need. There are needs for carpenters, nurses, electricians, and on it goes.

Although this is not mission work per se, there is a need for school teachers in some of our schools where missionary children attend. I can think of nothing more romantic and exciting than for a young person or a young couple just out of school and who have a career of teaching before them, to do this kind of a thing for two or more years. The schools work out contracts that help with expense to and from the school as an incentive. It is my understanding there are several openings of this nature.

In 1970, I had the privilege of preaching in a crusade in the Philippines. On that trip, I met a couple who were serving as dormitory parents for missionary children in a boarding school. In our recent visit, I went to this dormitory and visited with the man. This couple spent a good portion of their lives in their regular profession and have been serving in this way for these last several years. In my opinion, this is a great way to be a missionary.

While we were in Kenya, we met a man and his wife in another special work. He had been president of one of our Baptist colleges in a southern state. He retired early from the college and is working out there a few months helping in writing and publications. Not only is he working there, but he is also writing feature articles for papers and periodicals back in the States. In addition to that, he is preaching in churches over there. He is having a great time and is one of the happiest men I have ever seen.

There are English-speaking churches throughout the world. Many pastors who are approaching retirement age or earlier can have some marvelous experiences in travel and preaching by serving in such a capacity.

Such needs as these can be met in a cooperative effort. Some individuals can afford to pay their own way and serve well. Some churches could pay the way of a person. We met a young man from Vicksburg who is in medical school in Jackson and a member of First Baptist of Jackson. That church had paid his expenses to India for the summer. We saw him at work out in a community center. Relatives and

friends could help someone to go and serve in one of these special projects. I don't claim to know all the needs. I just know they exist, and my prayer is that someone who read this will answer the call of need.

Next I shall discuss some things about West Africa.

Rio De Janeiro, Brazil—More than 500 people attended the inauguration service of the new Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) headquarters building here recently. Besides the United States, Brazil is the only country to have a national WMU headquarters building. Today there are over 5,000 WMU organizations with over 98,000 members in the 25 state conventions of the Brazilian Baptist Convention.

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 7  
Thursday, December 9, 1976

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## Medical Center Slates Life Crisis Workshop

Being the one left behind is not easy. The husband or wife left with a family must deal with their own feelings of loss and also care for the family.

Whether the loss is through death or a divorce, a personal crisis can result. State clergy and health professionals will focus on these two crises, divorce and life-threatening illness, in a Dec. 9-10 University of Mississippi Medical Center workshop at the Jackson Hilton.

"Although distinctly different, the two events have the similar characteristics of loss and grief," workshop coordinator and director of pastoral services at University Hospital, Dr. James L. Travis III, a Baptist chaplain said.

"Divorce and life-threatening illness cause major disturbances in the family unit. The crisis may be an opportunity for personal growth, but that process is not automatic. Those facing significant loss often need help and support from trained professionals," Dr. Travis added.

The two-day workshop is sponsored by the University Hospital pastoral services department and the UMC Division of Continuing Health Professional Education with partial funding from the Mississippi Regional Medical Program.

Enrollment for the workshop, while intended primarily for Mississippi clergy, is open to all health care professionals.

Course faculty are Dr. James William Worden, assistant professor of

psychology at Harvard Medical School and research director of Massachusetts General Hospital's project on dying; Dr. Sheila Kessler, assistant professor and counselor at Georgia State University in Atlanta; Dr. J. Phillip Stanberry, assistant professor of religious education at Mississippi College; and Dr. J. Tate Thigpen, UMC assistant professor of medicine.

John Claypool, pastor of Northminster Baptist Church in Jackson, is speaker for the workshop dinner, Dec. 9. Claypool is the author of "Tracks of a Fellow Struggler," which deals with grief.

Workshop fee is \$20 and should be mailed to the Medical Center Division of Continuing Health Professional Education, 2500 North State Street, Jackson, Miss. 39218.

The dinner is an additional \$10 and reservations are required.

## Church Pleases All In S. C. Community

LODGE, S. C. (BP) — If the town's name sounds political, get a load of the local Baptist church's name. It's Carter's Ford Baptist Church.

Members of the church in Colleton (S.C.) Baptist Association are still trying to manage a frozen smile when people link its name

## Deacons Serve

(Continued from page 1)

be the reason women do not serve as deacons. "I believe the strong resentment to women serving as deacons is not because of Scriptural interpretation." He said that there are questions about interpretation of the "husband of one wife" verse (1 Tim. 3:12), and he cited Phoebe as being called a deacon (Rom. 16:1).

"I think we made that other error in saying deacons are rulers in church because men say that women can't have authority in the church."

"I think," he continued, "we'll see the day when women will serve in the body of deacons, and when deacons give up the idea of ruling and become spiritual servants of the church, women will be welcome."

Seminars during the conference included explanations of CARE revivals, deacon-pastor-staff relationships, and wives involved in team ministry, led by Martha Nelson, author and wife of Carl Nelson, pastor of Pelahatchie Baptist Church.

of the Southern Baptist congregation with the recent presidential campaign and election.

In fact, they probably haven't had as many cracks about presidential politics in Lodge since Henry Cabot Lodge ran for vice president.

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Paul and Fran Vandercook at left join ladies from Viet Nam, Japan, Korea, and the United States for an international Thanksgiving Dinner. Mrs. Mari McPherson (third from right) is the first Japanese member of the Associational Missions Committee.

## International Women's Fellowship Is Organized On The Gulf Coast

A monthly meeting of women from several countries is the latest expression of the language missions program of the Jackson County Baptist Association.

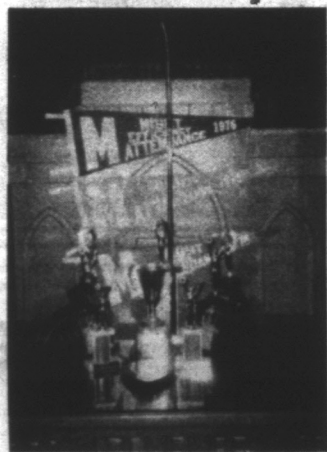
Mrs. Mari McPherson and Mrs. Toshika Pigford, both Japanese, realized a need for fellowship among international women. To meet that need and provide an atmosphere for Christian witness, they worked with Mrs. Fran Vandercook, associational WMU director, to organize the local

International Women's Fellowship.

A loosely knit organization meets monthly, in connection with English as a Second Language classes, for friendly visitation, entertainment, and programs of general interest. The organization provides an outlet for women who are adjusting to a new culture and language.

At the November meeting the women shared a Thanksgiving dinner with an international flair. Each member brought a dish from her own country, so the group shared American, Korean, Japanese, and Vietnamese food. All gave thanks for the blessings of the year — and for their common home, the United States.

The Rev. Zeno Wells is director of missions for the Jackson County Association.



## Byram Earns Two Of Three Banners Given "M Night"

Byram Church received two out of the three banners given at Hinds-Madison Association M Night, November 23.

The church has received one or more banners each year since 1963, during the years that the Hinds-Madison Association has had M Night. They have also received the highest attendance award each year, and several years the highest percentage award. The church also received the children's high attendance award several years. (Many times Hinds-Madison has the largest M Night attendance in the state.)

The pastor of Byram Church is the Rev. Henry J. Bennett. Fred Tarpley is director of missions for Hinds-Madison.

## Simmons Memorial Dedicates Sanctuary, A Year After Fire

The congregation of Simmons Memorial Church, Flora, held dedication services on Sunday, December 5, at 2 p.m. The colonial-styled construction was built to replace the building lost by fire on October 18, 1975.

The dedication service was the culmination of a year of planning and fund raising. Offerings given December 5 will go into the building fund.

Dr. Henry Hight, pastor of Beacon Street Church, Philadelphia, brought the dedicatory message. The Flag

Chapel Trio of Flag Chapel Church, Jackson, brought special music.

Following regular morning services, dinner was served on the grounds. The dedication service was followed by a reception in the fellowship hall.

The Rev. Nelson Crozier is the pastor.

## Ashland Honors Pastor Brann

Ashland Church celebrated Pastor Appreciation Day for the Rev. Kermit Brann on November 14 with a pot luck dinner. The Hospitality Committee, Joanne Autry, Anne Harrison, Bessie Miskelly, and Audrey McGill, planned the special day.

Jim Synder was master of ceremonies for the program in the afternoon. Craig May, an RA; Warren Dievert, deacon and Sunday School teacher; and Leslie Hudspeth, chairman of deacons, expressed appreciation to Rev. Brann, who has been pastor of Ashland since Easter Sunday, 1973.

Mrs. Joanne Autry read a letter from Mrs. Diane Desher, Greensboro, N.C., daughter of Kermit and Joyce Brann. The pastor's son, Mark, and his wife, were present for the occasion. Joe Autry presented to Pastor and Mrs. Brann a gift from the church—a white tree loaded with money.

Under the leadership of the Branns, Ashland Church has increased in membership. The budget has increased each year, and all mission goals have been surpassed. The church bought two adjoining lots with a large building that has been transformed into a well-equipped youth and recreation center.

Jim Synder is minister of adult music and Darwin Brooks is minister of youth and music.

## Auxiliary At Med Center Elects Mrs. Bobbie Burton

Mrs. Bobbie Burton has been elected president of the Auxiliary organization of the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center.

Mrs. L. F. Gilbert is the new first vice-president, and Mrs. Sue Lucas is the new second vice-president.

Mrs. Pauline Moak is recording secretary, Mrs. Clara Mize corresponding secretary and Mrs. Faira Green treasurer.

The meeting included a tribute to Mrs. George Meek, an active member of the Auxiliary for 20 years.

Mrs. Gilbert is the outgoing president and also is the president-elect of the Mississippi Hospital Association Society for Volunteers, a statewide organization.

Auxiliary members with over 75 hours of volunteer work over the past year were given awards at the December meeting.

Guest speaker for the December meeting was The Rev. Franklin D. Pollard, pastor of First Baptist Church, Jackson.

Mrs. Kathryn Feldman, hospital hostess and coordinator of volunteers, said the Auxiliary now has 214 members.

## Evangelical Rallies Interest Waning

DALLAS (RNS) — Two large national evangelical Christian gatherings scheduled here have been canceled for lack of sufficient response.

Evangelist Bill Gaither's "Praise Gathering" Nov. 11-13 and Campus Crusade for Christ's "World Thrust" Dec. 2-4 were each expected to draw about 5,000 participants for evangelistic seminars and special music.

Evangelist Bill Bright is founder-president of Campus Crusade.

In October, a Campus Crusade four-day "National Prayer Congress" attracted 1,000 instead of the 10,000 organizers were planning for.

The current situation contrasts with the Dallas rally climate four years ago when "Expo '72" brought 100,000 religious youth together for a week under Campus Crusade auspices.



West Calvary Church, Union, has dedicated a new pastorium. West Calvary had its beginning in 1960 as a mission of First Church, Union. On July 7, 1974, it was organized into a church, with dedication services held for the new brick building, which is debt-free. The Rev. John Jacobs, former missionary to Guiana, South America, and Dominica, West Indies, has been serving as interim pastor at West Calvary. He was called November 14 to become pastor and accepted the call November 21.

## Spanish Revival At Broadmoor

The Spanish Congregation of Broadmoor Baptist Church in Jackson conducted revival services November 12-14. Those regular in attendance prior to the revival spent many hours in visiting and inviting the approximately 700 Spanish-speaking people living within the Jackson area.

Rev. Curtis Ferrell, assistant pastor at Broadmoor Baptist Church and pastor of the Spanish Congregation, brought the messages. Daniel Carroll, minister of youth at Columbus Avenue Baptist Church in Waco, Tex., was the guest musician, and also offered chalk talks. Both Carroll and Ferrell learned Spanish while in Argentina, where both spent a great portion of their lives.

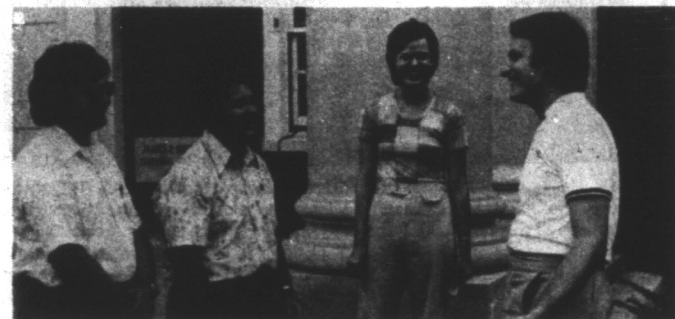
On the Sunday of the revival, there were 68 persons present; many of whom had never prior to that time attended a Baptist church. Over the



weekend, a total of 76 different people attended the revival services and there were two professions of faith.

The Spanish Congregation is excited about the potential for ministry to these and other Spanish-speaking families and individuals. Special activities are offered frequently. Regular Sunday services presently include Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. and a morning service service at 10:45 a.m. held in the Broadmoor Baptist Church Chapel.

Dr. David Grant is pastor at Broadmoor.



## Seminarians Send Greetings

Some of the new students from Mississippi who have enrolled at Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky., this year, gathered in front of the seminary library recently to have their pictures taken for the folks back home. While at seminary students keep in contact with Baptist work in their home state through church bulletins, state Baptist papers, and state clubs which met on a regular basis. Pictured (left to right) are: Terry Garvin (Booneville), Jimmy Porter (Philadelphia), Charlotte Elizey (Ellisville), and Conrad Howell (Pontotoc). There are 48 students from Mississippi enrolled at Southern Seminary this fall.

## Devotional

### "Which Way, Lord?"

By Jasper Collins, Pastor, Bovina Mission, Vicksburg  
Secondly, we call attention to: "THE BACKWARD LOOK."  
In Luke 9:62, "Jesus said, No man having put his hand to the plough, and LOOKING BACK, is fit for the kingdom of God."



Jesus' reply was made to the excuses of a man who had verbally committed himself to become a follower, but wanted time off to bid farewell to all his relatives. In the Asian tradition of bidding farewell, he could have meant, "Lord, I'll go, but next year perhaps."

Jesus' confrontation with the Pharisees in John 8:33 teaches us that "looking back" religiously can bring spiritual immaturity to the keenest academic minds. Self-righteousness they depended on their genealogy back to Abraham, but Jesus proclaimed them to be of their father, the devil. In a world filled with so many religions, someone has to be religiously wrong.

In Genesis 19, Lot's exodus from Sodom could have been a glorious victory but was a terrible tragedy for he had "looked back" to a worldly way of life that brought death.

One result of "looking back" is taught in the life of Hymenaeus in 1 Timothy 1:20. Some interpret, "Being turned over to Satan," as having its roots grounded in 1 Corinthians 5:5 as Paul said, "To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus."

We now live in that time of personal relationship with God where individual opportunity demands, accept or reject Christ. Whosoever will has the encouragement of the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit, the church, and a great cloud of witnesses to become the children of God. We can become the children of God without that LOOKING BACK that brings trouble, heartache, or death.

## Sunday School Lesson: Life and Work For December 12

# "Lord, Teach Us How To Pray"

By Bill Duncan  
First Church, Long Beach  
Luke 11:1-4, Ephesians 3:14-21, 6:18-20

The greatest problem concerning prayer is not the problem of how to pray, but the problem of the Christian is his failure to pray. Those who really pray and make use of this God-given privilege constitutes a very small minority among the body of Christians. There is no greater potential given to God's children for blessing men than this marvelous instrument of prayer.

However, we have learned through the years that the average Christian does not know how to pray. A person once said, "I never pray in public, and I know very little about prayer or how to pray." He had been a Christian for over fifty years. Because so many Christians—new and old alike—know so little about prayer, it is good for us to consider some basic truths about prayer.

To learn to pray is like learning to talk. We begin with a few awkward words and phrases. At first, we are so conscious of talking that we forget what we are saying. Then the use of words becomes a part of life and we talk naturally. This is the way prayer needs to become for the Christian. Prayer is no more a duty than breathing is. Prayer is not some act of righteousness which we perform as a part of our dedication. It is one of God's children spending time with Him. The words which would characterize the best of all possible relationships should characterize our prayer life. The person was correct when he said, "Prayer is a dialogue between two people who love each other—God and man."

**Who Can Pray?**  
Those who belong to Christ. You cannot expect God to answer your prayers unless you come to Him in the name and authority of the Lord Jesus as your only mediator.

Those who have a clean heart. "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." God is holy. We should be aware of His desire to forgive our sins and make us clean. In His presence our ambitions, our motives, our methods all need to have His refining influence.

Those who have a forgiving spirit. No prayer except the prayer of confession can be answered by God unless it comes from a heart that is free of bitterness. You and I must come to God with a forgiving spirit and heart, if we are to receive the Christian's legacy of power in prayer.

Those who pray in faith. We must have a believing heart if our prayers are to be answered. "And everything you ask in prayer, believing, you shall receive."

**What Should We Do When We Pray?**  
Prayer can be as real as life itself for the Christian. However, thought needs to be given to our prayers.

In prayer there should be sharing. Whatever a Christian is interested in, reading about, dreaming about, he shall talk to God about. The key idea in prayer is friend. The best friend we have is God. If we spend time with Him, we should share.

Prayer can be a time of cleansing. Confession is an essential part of prayer. God is loving and wants to forgive us, but we must agree with Him that we have sinned.

Prayer allows us to get our proper focus on life. We get out of focus and fail to see life from God's point of view. We are so close to our particular section of life that our perspective can change so gradually that we will not even be aware of it. As we spend time with God, He helps us to see clearly.

In prayer we can receive counsel from God. We have so many decisions to make that we need God's help to make the right decision. A Christian can talk to God about any fear or idea he may have.

In prayer we can have a wonderful fellowship with God. Not all our prayers need to be asking for something. There can be a time of praise, when we thank Him for His love and presence. It may be that we will come to the point of having such a wonderful time that we forget what we intended to ask for. God waits anxiously for us to come and have fellowship with Him.

**Why Should One Pray?**  
We should pray because it brings results. Prayer does change things. Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead through prayer. Elijah prayed that no rain would fall, and it did not rain for three and one-half years.

For many Christians, prayer is like window shopping—they spend much time looking but never buy anything. We are to pray for everything and in specific terms. Paul admonishes us, "Be anxious for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be

made known to God." Supplication includes intercession for others and petitions for our own needs.

There is nothing too small or too great to bring before the Lord. Pray that your inner man may be renewed and quickened—be made alert and alive, vital, refreshed, always sensitive to and empowered by the Holy Spirit. Pray about your problem, pray for wisdom and guidance, pray for strength to resist temptation, pray for comfort in time of sorrow—pray for everything.

There needs to be persistence in our praying. The idea of persistence is illustrated by Jesus when He told of a woman who had a judgment against her but who had no way of paying it. She hounded the judge and, though he feared neither God nor man, he eventually gave her what she wanted because of her persistence. Jesus was not trying to give an illustration of the nature of the Heavenly Father, but He

was suggesting that if the judge in the story would listen because of a persistent plea, but much more the Heavenly Father would listen because He loves us.

It may be as we continue to pray, God will purify the heart's desires. Persistence in prayer tests our faith. Sometimes God wants us to persist in our praying in order to change us according to His purpose.

Prayer is the major means of becoming a fruitful witness for Christ. The divine order is to talk to God about men, and then to talk to men about Christ. Witnessing is gathering in the results of prayer, both the prayer of the one who is sharing Christ and the prayer of others who have prayed.

Therefore our prayer should be, "Lord, teach us how to pray." We neglect our greatest help and tool for living the Christian life when we do not pray as we should. God commands men to pray and not to faint.

## Sunday School Lesson: International For December 12

# The Coming Anticipated

By Wm. J. Falls  
Luke 1:26-79

From the first four verses of Luke's Gospel we get the distinct impression that he was a careful and orderly person. He was acquainted with a number of written accounts of Jesus' life and ministry based on the authority of eyewitnesses. He studied those sources closely and then wrote his own account in a way that would help Theophilus know the truth of what he had been taught. No other Gospel gives so much attention to the birth of Jesus. Although Luke was a Gentile, he was quite aware, especially in this first chapter, that Jesus was a Jew. He preserved some intimate and beautiful aspects of the anticipation of Jesus' coming.



The Lesson Explained  
Elizabeth Recognizes Mary's Role (vv. 39-45)  
Because Mary went "with haste" to visit Elizabeth, she responded to the

angel's report with either concern or curiosity—or perhaps both. Her kinswoman was quite old, while Mary may have been in her late teens. Although we do not know the "city in Judea," it was probably near Jerusalem, a distance of about 80 miles from Nazareth.

When Mary arrived and greeted Elizabeth, the older woman answered with a loud cry of joy, obviously filled with the Holy Spirit. She blessed the younger woman and expressed surprise "that the mother of my Lord" should honor her with a visit. (Notice that she did not say "mother of God.") Then Elizabeth told, probably with delight and awe, how the babe in her womb had leaped for joy at the sound of Mary's voice. She was pleased with her own approaching motherhood, but the older Elizabeth was enlightened by the Spirit to recognize the higher role of Mary in God's will.

Mary Sings Of Her Joy And Faith (vv. 46-55)

These verses are often called the Magnificat, which is the first word in Mary's song in its Latin version; it is the verb "doth magnify." Since the song is so similar to that of Hannah in 1 Samuel 2:1-10, some scholars have

contended that it was sung by Elizabeth. But all Greek manuscripts credit it to Mary, and its content is more appropriate to Jesus than to John.

Especially from verse 49 does it show a remarkable use of ideas and phrases from various Old Testament books, as though Mary's mind was saturated with Holy Writ. She rejoiced in "God my Saviour" and was still amazed that he should have selected her for his special purpose. Then in verse 50 she began to describe his saving acts. He had been compassionate on one generation after another. He had shown his strength by scattering those with proud thoughts and deposing kings from their thrones. He had fed the hungry and refused the rich. Because of his promise to Abraham and his descendants, God had helped Israel. Mary must have known that she would be the means of the fulfillment of that promise.

Zacharias Praises God For John (vv. 56-68)

After a three-month visit, Mary returned home; and very soon Elizabeth had her son. Although her neighbors and kinsfolk rejoiced, Zacharias still

could not speak. When friends assumed that the child would be named after his father, Elizabeth remonstrated and told the name selected by the angel. Then Zacharias wrote the name, and suddenly he was able to speak. The father had been given his voice again! It was a sign from God in favor of the child, the neighbors thought.

Moved by the Holy Spirit, Zacharias began a psalm that has been called Benedictus, from the first word in the Latin version. In verses 69-79 we have another weaving together as in Mary's song, of phrases from various Old Testament books. At first (vv. 69-73) he praised God for the salvation he had promised Israel so they "might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness." Then he spoke to his son as "the prophet of the Highest . . . to prepare his ways." What an honor to be the Forerunner of the Lord!

WASHINGTON, D. C. (RNS) — The Seventh-day Adventists World Service (SAWS) will provide 80 tons of new and used winter clothing for victims of the civil war in Lebanon.